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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]

THE "RAW MATERIAL" OF OUR ARMIES.

If the war were to be brought to a conclusion to-morrow would England retain the credit, the *prestige*, and the glory that she possessed before it broke out? We doubt it. Our soldiers have been brave, and our people have been enthusiastic; but, either from want of skill or of heart among our governing classes—or from want of means to make a figure as a great military nation—or perhaps from a combination of all these, with many other causes not yet developed, or even suspected, we are not looked upon

in the Continental States of Europe with the same feelings as before. We are still a great and a mighty nation—far from having reached the culmination of our splendour; but Europe has learned to doubt whether our high pretensions are altogether justified by facts, and whether there be not in existence amongst us a germ of decay that will disable us in future from playing that part in the affairs of the world to which we conceive ourselves entitled. Are foreign nations misled in this respect? If not, and if there be a weak part in our legal constitution or our social economy which prevents us from being as powerful as we

desire to be, it is the duty of every patriot and every honest man in the country to aid in its discovery and in its remedy, that we may continue to hold our own against all opponents, come whence they will. A leading Power in Europe cannot afford to lose caste. If we desire to stand as we have stood before, in the very front of the world; foremost in the arts of peace, but foremost also in the arts of war, whenever war becomes necessary to maintain among ourselves the blessings of civilisation and freedom, or to extend them among our neighbours, we must beware lest we go to sleep when the rest of mankind are awake; or fat



ARRIVAL OF THE KING OF SARDINIA AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—THE GRAND STAIRCASE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

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ourselves with our invulnerability, when, in reality, by thoughtless and inconsiderate legislation, or by the progress of social changes to which we have shut our eyes, we are growing weak instead of strong, and imperilling both our honour and our security.

If the righteous war in which the nation is now engaged should not speedily be brought to an honourable conclusion, it is obvious that we cannot continue to play our proper part in it without putting forth a greater amount of strength than we have yet done. To strike hard and effectually, England requires a large army; or, failing that, it must put greater strength into its navy;—so that, while leaving the success of military operations to our brave allies the French, we may reap all the glory and advantage from that naval arm in which it is acknowledged by the whole world that we have no equal. Our navy may easily be made all that can be wished. The service is popular. A seafaring life appeals to the tastes, the sympathies, and the habits of the people; and there is nothing to prevent us from increasing our maritime strength to any extent that the policy or the exigencies of the war may demand. But with the army the case is different. The truth is patent to all the world, that we cannot get as many soldiers as we require. How is this? Why are we obliged to hunt up for foreigners, as auxiliaries? And why, with all our efforts, do we fall short by fifty, if not by a hundred, thousand men of the number requisite—not only for speedy success, but for fair share of honour?

We think that there are three causes for this state of things:—first, that, without a conscription, it is impossible for the nation to compete with Trade and Industry in offering sufficiently high terms for a supply of men; second, that in our voluntarily-enlisted army we do not offer fair play to the best men, or hold out to them the prospect of high promotion as the reward of zeal, bravery, intelligence, and good conduct; and third, that by the operations of a social system, partly caused by the laws relating to the tenure and occupation of land, and partly by the aggregation of large masses of men in our great towns, there is no longer such a body of hale, able-bodied, brave, and active peasantry as existed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, so lately even as the close of the last war.

A few words on each of these heads will enable our readers to form something like a clear conception of the difficulties which during the present war have prevented Great Britain from organising an army sufficient for her needs. The subject of a conscription may be easily dealt with. As often remarked, it is alien to our habits, and to the free spirit of our people, and would not be endured unless an invading enemy were in sight of our shores, when the same free spirit would render it unnecessary. Until the hour of such danger the subject may be dismissed. We shall have no conscription for our distant wars were Russia ten times as strong, and fifty times as obstinate as she is.

With regard to the second point, it is beginning to be generally acknowledged that we have never yet done justice to our soldiery. The aristocratic element that pervades British society is one that cannot be destroyed; but, as we do not in the serious business of life or death trust to aristocracy to help us, neither should we trust to it exclusively in so serious a business as war. Who will call in an aristocratic physician—if such a person there be—to help him through a dangerous illness? Who will submit his limb to the amputation of an aristocratic surgeon? Who will confide his complicated affairs to the management of an aristocratic solicitor? None;—unless the hopelessly stupid or fatuous. In such emergencies we look for skill and merit to aid us, and care nothing for a man's birth or connections, provided he have the ability which we require. In the business of war we ought, if we were wise, to act upon the same principle. How can we expect the flower of our youth and manhood—our men with strong hands, resolute hearts, and high ambition—to enter into our service, unless we open up to them the fullest advantages and highest rewards of the military career? If the man of genius and of plebeian birth is not to rise by his merits, as he would in the civil and open professions, he will avoid the army as he would suicide, and become physician, lawyer, shoemaker, tailor, or even ticket-porter, rather than a soldier. The war, young as it is, has already taught us this lesson; and mischief may even yet befall us, if we are too obstinate or too careless to profit by it.

The third point leads to a far larger and far more important question. Have we the same "raw material" for our armies as we had before the forty years' peace that was conquered at Waterloo? Let us hear upon this subject the statement of a writer in the current number of *Blackwood's Magazine*, who in an article entitled "Our Rural Population and the War,"—full of melancholy and, we are sorry to believe, indisputable facts,—proves the gradual but sure decrease of the numbers of the peasantry, not only of Ireland and of Scotland, but of England also, under the operation of social laws which either force the bone and sinew of the people to emigrate from their native land, or to congregate together in large towns for absorption amid the great wheels of monster manufactories. "Take," says the writer,

"The northern half of the kingdom first,—and what do we find? One-half of the parishes, and two-thirds of the area, of Scotland are decreasing in population! The fact, which we may well call astounding, is established by the last Census Returns, and is acknowledged by all parties to be indisputable. Over two-thirds of its extent, Scotland has suffered a positive diminution in the number of its inhabitants,—a diminution not merely relative (that is to say, with reference to the increase of the population generally), but absolute,—the population in those parts falling short of the amount which it once reached. And what deserves to be noticed is, that the decrease is UNIVERSAL throughout the rural districts. The wastes of Sutherland, the bleak mountains of Argyll, are hardly (if at all) decreasing faster than the rich straths and carse of the Lowlands—than the green hills of the Borders, or the Arcadian region of the Ettrick and Yarrow. Bonnie Teviotdale with its sunny haughs, and the sheltered valley-land of the bright-running Tweed, exhibit the same phenomena as do the bleaker valleys of the Nith and the Spey. 'The Flowers of the Forest are a' we'de away!' The lament for the loss of the bone and sinew of the country after the disastrous fight of Flodden may be renewed now with still more justice and not less regret. War made the first clearance,—Peace and false theories have done the last. War has swept away its thousands, but Peace its tens of thousands. The so-called 'progress of society' is sweeping our peasantry from the fields. The acres which their fathers rented or owned are now merged in the latifundia that are creeping over the country; and they themselves have either emigrated or gone to swell the pauperism and sink into the physical degeneracy of the factory towns. A Juggernaut civilisation is crushing them beneath the wheels of its onward car.

"It is hardly a century since a rebellion of the Highland Clans sufficed to shake the British throne to its base—where is that host of matchless soldiers now! We have it on record that in 1745 there were upwards of 30,000 able-

bodied clansmen in the Highlands, fit for home or foreign service—every man of them, alike in frame and spirit, a warrior. There is not a tithe of that number now; and many districts which furnished their 500, 700, or 800 soldiers in time of the wars, are now without a single human being in them but a shepherd or two and a brace of gamekeepers. Even the Western Isles, now noted only for their poverty, were once a nursery for brave soldiers; and it is stated that the Island of Skye alone furnished, during the Peninsular War, no fewer than 21 Lieutenant-Generals and Major-Generals, 48 Lieutenant-Colonels, 600 Majors, Captains, and subalterns, 10,000 foot-soldiers, 120 pipers—besides 3 persons for the public service, 4 Governors of British colonies, 1 Governor-General, 1 Chief Baron of England, and 1 Judge of the Supreme Court of Scotland. The cottage and the croft have been herried to make way for grouse and deer; and, so far as the production of food is concerned—food available for the ordinary purposes of life—hundreds of thousands of acres that once grew, and supported soldiers second to none who ever stepped, might as well be sunk in the bottom of the sea. Not only are they not cultivated, but, in some cases, they are not even to be seen."

"But it is not the Highlands only that have been depopulated. The diminution of the rural population is almost as great in the Lowlands. In the five Highland counties of Argyll, Inverness, Perth, Ross, and Sutherland, 156 out of their 211 parishes show an actual decrease—a proportion one-fourth greater than that exhibited by the country generally; and in the rural districts of Sutherland there is only one person to each 59 acres—being the thinnest population in Scotland. But even in the most fertile of the mainly agricultural counties of the Lowlands more than a half of the parishes are decreasing in population. Excluding in both cases the town population, so as to get at the state of the rural territory, we find that the population to the square mile in the shires of Selkirk, Peebles, Kirkcudbright, and Dumfries, is only a shade less sparse than it is in Inverness, Ross, Argyll, and Perth; and the population of the bleak isles of Lewis and Skye is nearly three times greater in proportion to their extent than that of the infinitely more fertile Selkirkshire!"

And while such is the condition of Scotland, and while the sons of the brave men who fought with Wellington, and enabled us at that time to maintain our ground against the world, and raise Great Britain to that high position which she has since so gloriously held, have tilled and owned the fields of Western America, of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Australia, what has happened in England? The same writer shall tell the story:—

"Turn to England, and we find the same sad spectacle. Between 1831 and 1841 not a single county (though many parishes) showed a decrease of population; but in the ten years which followed—namely, from 1841 to 51—as we learn from the last Census, no fewer than twenty-seven entire counties have undergone a diminution! [The writer means as regards the rural population only, and not the whole population inclusive of that in the great cities and towns.] If the abolition of the old system of customary occupation paved the way for the Highland 'clearances,' the inclosure of the commons has not been without a similar, though lesser, effect upon the rural population of England. 'Both measures,' says Hugh Miller, 'had essentially the same result in one respect—essentially a different result in another. They both left a country population composed of a very small number of great landed proprietors, surrounded by a dependent and almost subject tenantry, outside of which remained the mass of those who live by labour alone—who have been cast loose from all interest in the soil, and who are regarded as machines for the execution of work.' In England, it is true, the inclosure of the commons brought these lands into cultivation—unlike the corresponding measure in the Highlands which threw the lands out of cultivation. 'Still, even supposing that the produce after the inclosure was five or ten times greater than before, it was more advantageous to the peasantry (that is, to the great body of the rural population) to have only the fifth or the tenth as their own, than to be deprived of it altogether, and to see ten times the produce passing into the hands of the great landlords and great agriculturists. The landlords and farmers acquired wealth, the peasants went on the parish, and were supported by the parish rates.' Besides the decline in the numbers of the English peasantry, there has, we regret to say, been a simultaneous lagging behind in their comforts and condition. Take the case of Lincolnshire—the best-cultivated district in England—and the very paradise of the agricultural labourer. Comparing the rate of wages and price of provisions in that county in 1797-8-9, the period over which Arthur Young's report extends, with those current in 1849, when Mr. Clarke's prize-essay on the farming of Lincolnshire was written, we find that the labourer's command over the necessities of life has remained stationary, if not retrograded, while the rental of the county has increased 87 per cent! Thus the only parties benefited by the improvements in farming and general progress of the country have been the landlords and tenants, while the farm-labourers are no better off than they were half a century ago. Can we wonder that our rural population should emigrate, when they thus find themselves stationary in comfort, while not only their employers, but every other class of the community around them, have immensely improved?"

These facts afford matter for grave reflection. To those who wish to study them at greater length and fulness than can be allowed in the columns of a newspaper we recommend the article in *Blackwood*. We shall return to the subject at a future time, convinced that the evil has not yet assumed such gigantic proportions as to be incapable of a remedy. The true materials for a great army are a free-spirited and stalwart peasantry. If there be no such peasantry left, we must either set about restoring it, or we must trust to other means than our armies for holding our place in Europe. Had we no navy, our situation would look darker; but, with or without a great army, we may still be confident that that true bulwark of our nation will, if we do it justice, enable us to hold our own, and justify our great pretensions by our still greater actions.

VISIT OF THE KING OF SARDINIA.

IN our account of the visit of the King of Sardinia we described the reception his Majesty met with at Windsor. We now engrave the interesting scene at the foot of the grand staircase of the Castle. Her Majesty received her illustrious guest on alighting from his carriage at the grand entrance. The Queen was accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Princess Alice, and was attended by the Duchess of Sutherland, and the Ladies in Waiting, the Officers of State of her Household, and the Gentlemen in Waiting. The Duke of Cambridge, Viscount Palmerston, and the Earl of Clarendon were also at the grand entrance.

The King of Sardinia and her Majesty the Queen passed up the grand staircase, followed by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, the Princess Alice, and the Duke of Cambridge, and were conducted by the great Officers of State to one of the State rooms, where the Queen and Prince presented to his Majesty the ladies and gentlemen of their Court, and the King introduced the noblemen and gentlemen of his suite to the Queen and Prince. The walls and staircase are of stone, but the lantern and ceiling are not of the same durable material, being of wood, coloured to represent stone. They are framed into panels by mouldings enriched with bosses at their intersections, the bosses being somewhat of the plainest; and there are fleurons de-lis at the lower part of the panels. The mouldings to the ceiling are extremely bold and simple in design, and indeed the architectural features generally are more distinguished for their massiveness than ornateness of character. On the landing of the stairs, under a deeply-recessed arch, is a splendid statue by Sir Francis Chantrey of George IV., forming a colossal and appropriate ornament to the staircase. It is a principal object in our view. At the head of the stairs on each hand are glass doors, on the north side, communicating with and giving light to the State ante-room, as we have mentioned in our notice of that apartment; and on the southern side similar glass doors open on to the back staircase. The balustrade to the stairs is of stone, pierced, with trefoil-headed arches, to correspond with a series of arches skirting the walls at the head of the stairs.

AMERSHAM SCHOOL.—On Thursday week the second annual musical entertainment was given by the young gentlemen pupils of E. West, Esq. The concert was under the direction of W. H. Birch, Esq., and the several pieces were ably executed. At the close of the entertainment the captain of the school, Mr. Hardy, presented, on behalf of the pupils, an elegant timepiece to Mr. Birch, "as a testimonial of their esteem for the diligent discharge of his duty as a teacher of music and singing."

A grand banquet is to be given on Monday, the 17th inst., at Brussels, by the Belgian exhibitors, to the members of the Jury and the Directing Commission of the Paris Exhibition.

It is said that Mdme. Goldschmidt has accepted an engagement to sing in Liverpool at two concerts, one to be held on the 4th and the other on the 7th of January.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

AMERICA.

The mail steam-ship *Pacific*, which left New York on the 28th ultimo, arrived at Liverpool last Saturday night.

The New York papers are still almost wholly filled with matter having reference to the recent reported misunderstanding between the Governments of Great Britain and America; but the additional facts they furnish are meagre. We give below the following despatches from Washington:—

Nov. 20.—Having made inquiry to-night at headquarters, I am authorised to contradict, emphatically, that the President has received any demand from England for the redress of anything growing out of the Crampton case. I am also authorised to state that Lord Clarendon says, explicitly, that the only object of the fleet is to intercept privateers.

Nov. 22.—Mr. Secretary Dobbin has addressed a letter to Mr. Crampton, tendering the thanks of our Government for the generous promptness with which the British Admiral, Johnston, on the coast of Brazil, recently placed the British steamer *Trident* at the service of Commodore Slater, to search for the missing boats containing the crew of the American ship *Cleopatra*, abandoned at sea.

The President's Message will show that Lord Clarendon has never attempted to answer Mr. Buchanan's last argument on the Central American question; but when, in September, he pressed him to answer, Lord Clarendon declared the correspondence closed, declined to reopen it, and indicated the determination of Great Britain to construe the treaty as not applying to her Ruatan Colony. There is little doubt that Great Britain would yield the Mosquito Protectorate, if we would admit her claim in Ruatan.

The Americans seem to consider that the recent augmentation of the West India squadron was prompted by the receipt of news of the seizure of the brig *Maury* in New York, and this view is supported by the following:—"The *Maury* affidavits were taken on the 10th October. They were evidently transmitted at about the same time, and reached London probably on the 22nd. Immediately thereafter a large additional force was ordered to the North American stations, and the London journals of the 22nd, 24th, 25th, simultaneously blew their ferocious war blasts."

With reference to this vessel the New York papers publish the report of Attorney-General Cushing to Mr. Marcy, on the result of his inquiries concerning the barque *Maury*. It appears from this document, that on the 11th of October the British Minister at Washington made a communication to the United States Government, founded upon a series of affidavits—namely, one by Mr. Barclay, setting forth that he believed, and expected to be able to prove, that the *Maury* was built, fitted out, and armed, with intent to be employed by the Russian Government to cruise against the subjects of Great Britain, and that he stood ready to bring forward his proofs thereof; another by J. N. Cornell, a police-officer of the Eleventh Ward, New York, describing the build, equipment, armament, and cargo of the *Maury*, and concluding with expression of belief that she was built, armed, and equipped by the Russian Government for war purposes against Great Britain; another from a person named Craft, a police officer in New York, who briefly describes the visible armament of the *Maury*, and expresses his belief that she is a vessel of war; finally, the affidavit of Mr. Edwards, counsellor-at-law in New York, who says that he verily believes that the *Maury* was built, equipped, and loaded by and for the Russian Government, to be used in the present war against the vessels and subjects of Great Britain. Mr. Edwards then proceeds to state that a person who he believes has been in the pay of the Russian Government gave him a full explanation of the armament and destination of the *Maury*. He (Mr. Edwards) gathered from the person referred to that the plan of the *Maury* was to attack and capture one of the Cunard British mail-steamer, arm the prize, and, after being joined by other vessels of the same construction, built and fitted out by the Russian Government, to proceed to attack the "British Possessions" in the East Indies.

Mr. Cushing then relates the result of the examination into the circumstances, and says:—

It appears that the *Maury* was owned in part by Messrs. A. A. Low and Brother, who have afforded satisfactory information as to her construction, character, and destination. They make affidavit that she was built and equipped for trade with China, having, in addition to the ordinary armament of vessels in that business, only two deck-guns, deemed requisite on account of the increase of piracy in the seas of China. It further appears by these explanations that the statements made as to the guns and munitions of war and extra spars on board the *Maury* were inaccurate, to use the mildest admissible expression; that the surmises as to the illegality of her character are not substantiated by proof; and that she is in fact advertised for general affreightment, and receiving cargo destined for Shanghai. Neither Mr. Barclay nor Mr. Edwards brought forward any evidence to contradict these facts; on the contrary, Mr. Edwards has, in a letter addressed to Mr. McKean, expressed his intention of dismissing the libel; which is also recommended unreservedly by Mr. McKean. Under these circumstances, it affords me pleasure to enable you to give assurances that the Cunard mail-steamer may continue to enter and leave our ports without apprehension of being captured by the *Maury*, and converted into Russian men-of-war for the purpose of hostilities in the East Indies.

I am, very respectfully, C. CUSHING.

Hon. Wm. L. Marcy, Secretary of State.

Great preparations were being made for the assembling of Congress, which would meet in a few days. The general belief was that Governor Cobb, of Georgia, will be chosen Speaker of the House.

The danger of a collision between the Federal Government and the Free States Government of Kansas is imminent. The Free States Convention have adopted a constitution, which is to be approved by the Anti-Slavery voters on the 15th of December, and put in operation in January.

The *New York Journal of Commerce*, referring to the enlistment question and the rumoured recall of Mr. Crampton, the British Minister, regrets to learn that it is the determination of the Administration to make that gentleman the expiating victim of the offence alleged to have been perpetrated.

An Irish aid meeting was lately held in Richmond. It appears that the movement had taken a firm hold on the minds of a large number of people there; and it seems, from the tone of the resolutions adopted at the meeting alluded to, that the spirit evoked is not likely to die out soon. A delegate was elected to attend at the Convention to be held at the Astor House, in New York, in December. It was said that, if the organisation failed to liberate Ireland, it will be perpetuated as a political counterpoise to Know-Nothing hostility towards emigrants from that country.

By the arrival of the steam-ship *Daniel Webster* at New Orleans advices have been received from California to the 5th ult. The mining news is of an encouraging nature. The Indians in Oregon were continuing their depredations on an extensive scale.

An additional force of 200 men had left San Francisco to join Colonel Walker, who still retained quiet possession of Granada and the transit route. He was daily receiving accessions. On the 13th Mr. Wheeler, the United States' Minister at Nicaragua, formally recognised Walker's Government. General Corral had been found guilty of treason and shot, and Espinosa had been banished. Colonel Kinney remained at Greytown, but fifty of his followers had joined the Walker party.

From Mexico the dates are to the 18th ult. General Alvarez had entered the capital with 5000 men, the garrison having evacuated, and a cordial feeling existed between the General and Vidaurri.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING MESSAGE.

A private communication from Washington enables us to anticipate the substance of this important State document, which will probably be received in London on Monday or Tuesday next. The Message, in adverting to the great contest now going on in Europe, will assure the citizens of the Union that Government, abiding by the maxim of Washington, have refrained from intermeddling in the affairs of Europe, and avoided "entangling alliances." In reference to the disputes with the United Kingdom, it will announce that the misunderstanding with regard to the affairs of Central America has unhappily not yet been adjusted, although there is every confidence that the good sense of the people of both countries may enable the Governments ultimately to arrive at that much-desired result. With regard to the reinforcement of the West India squadron it will state that the British Government has explained to the American Minister at their Court that the object of the reinforcement was the protection of the West India Islands, and of British merchantmen, against privateers, it having been reported that vessels were fitting out in some of the American ports to sail in this capacity, under a neutral flag. The correspondence on the subject is still carried on, but with every prospect of being brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The Message will recommend improvements in the military organisation of the States, and direct the formation of a staff for purposes of discipline and practice in different parts of the Union. This will be commended, as much from considerations of internal security as of external defence. The Message will reprobate all attempts at filibustering, and threaten with punishment those who may be taken while engaged in such unlawful expeditions.—*Morning Advertiser*.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The accounts from the seat of war are growing more uninteresting every day, and each successive arrival only makes matters worse. Winter is ever approaching, the process of hut-building is always going on, and Sebastopol is still being demolished. The only novelty in the most recent letters is that the northern forts had been firing rather more briskly of late. The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of Dec. 4 publishes the following:—

Under date 1st December, Prince Gortschakoff has sent the following message:—"Everything goes on well in the Crimea—there is nothing new. An enemy's picket has been surprised on the south side: on this occasion ten Frenchmen were captured."

It was lately stated that the effective of the French troops who are to winter in the Crimea had been reduced. This is an error. The soldiers returning from the East had been already replaced, and whole divisions were on the road to Constantinople before the Imperial Guard had quitted Sebastopol.

The Russian organs throughout Germany are vaunting the preparations that Russia is making to renew the war in the spring. They state also, that, as soon as the Sea of Azoff is frozen over, the Russians will make an attempt on Kertch and the other positions of the Allies in that quarter of the Crimea.

FALL OF KARS.

The *Morning Post* states that authentic intelligence has been received which leaves no doubt as to the fate of Kars. Ismail Pasha (General Kmety), and another officer, who succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the Russian outposts, are said to have effected their escape. When they quitted Kars, General Williams had been compelled by famine to send a flag of truce to the Russian camp, offering capitulation.

The *German Frankfort Journal* says:—"Selim Pasha has been compelled to renounce his attempt to relieve Kars, because his detachment of 9000 regulars and 5000 irregular troops, which was to guard the great convoy of provisions destined for the besieged town, was too late to pass the defiles occupied by the enemy. In Kars the distress was at its height, for famine and typhus ravaged the garrison, which only received a third of its primitive rations. The garrison did not hope to be able to maintain themselves beyond the 18th of November, when they would be forced to surrender if not succoured."

The date of this communication is November 3, and we have news up to November 19, when we know Kars had not fallen.

The Russian paper *Caucasus* contains a letter dated October 30, before Kars, which speaks of the Russian mounted militia having captured fifty-five Turkish horses almost under the batteries of Kars on the 24th of that month, together with the arms which the Bashi-bozouks and the regular cavalry had thrown away in their flight. In the night from the 25th to the 26th the Cossacks intercepted a courier, who was on his road to Kars with six men from the Pachalik of Erzeroum, carrying the mail. The letters, bags have, of course, been opened; they were found to contain a number of English, French, German, Greek, Armenian, and Turkish letters, as well as some official documents and numerous missives of less importance. It is said that they allude for the most part to the critical condition of the fortress, and betray information as to the intention of the Turkish commanders (?). On the morning after the capture of the courier a number of private letters were found near the spot where the rencontre took place, in one of which it is related Mrs. Anna Thompson in London expresses to her son in Kars her apprehension of provisions failing in that town, and sends him some visiting cards. With a prophetic foresight of the fate that awaited the courier, Mrs. Thompson had directed her letter "To General Mouravieff, and in case the mail should escape his spies to be delivered to Captain Henry Thompson, in Kars." In this letter, also, this thoughtful and affectionate mamma begged the Commander-in-Chief to have the goodness to forward her letter and her little packet to her son; and, as all has turned out as she had expected, so also the prayer of her petition has been granted. The Russian Commander has sent Captain Thompson his letter and his visiting cards.

A letter from Souchoum-Kaleh, dated Nov. 18, in the *Moniteur*, says:—"Omer Pasha is at Zougiddi, where he is awaiting supplies to continue his operations. His troops have occupied Si-naki, opened communications with Redout-Kaleh and Anaklea, and advanced towards Kutais. There is every reason to believe that another engagement will take place on the banks of the river Zsantits-Kaleh, and that the Russians will obstinately defend the passage of the Rion at Kutais, where they have no doubt concentrated the small force left disposable in Georgia, in consequence of their operations against Kars."

The *Constitutionnel* publishes a telegraphic despatch, dated Berlin, Dec. 7, which says:—"The Russian journal the *Caucasus* states that General Loussloff had been under the necessity of sending a detachment of troops towards Van and Allagh Dag, to put down a revolt of the Kurds against the Russians."

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

The steamer *Australia* arrived at Trieste on Monday morning. The India mail had arrived at Alexandria, with advices from Calcutta of the 8th of November and Bombay of the 16th of November. The Santhal rebellion was being put down by martial law. The Bengal army had been strengthened by 6000 men. The Governor-General was at Madras on his way to Burmah. The India mails could not leave Alexandria till the 6th of December.

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.—The *Czas* of Cracow states positively that it is the intention of the Russian Government to effect the immediate emancipation of the serfs of the whole empire. The Emperor personally is favourable to the measure, and the land-owning aristocracy who have been sounded offer no opposition.

THE HANGO MASSACRE.—A despatch from Lieutenant Geneste, giving the details of the Hango massacre, has been communicated by the Admiralty. The despatch is calm and business-like, but it adds little to our information on the subject. However, it brings out clearly the fact that the murderers of the boat's crew were not irregular militia, but grenadiers of the regiment of which the King of Prussia is Colonel; that Lieutenant Geneste and Mr. Sullivan were bound tightly with cords after their capture, and laid on their backs in a cart; that the seamen, wounded and unwounded, were compelled to walk by the Cossacks, who struck them with their lances; and that the officers of a Russian regiment at Eckness, disgusted with the treatment of the prisoners, cut the cords that bound them. One Russian officer present at the capture shook his fist in the face of Geneste, who was at the time held by eight or ten men. It is clear from this despatch that the ambush was prepared.

ITALIAN POLITICS.—Signor Manin has addressed a letter to the Parisian papers pointing out that the English periodical press has unanimously expressed itself favourable to the national aspirations of Italy, and asking for a similar expression of opinion from the French press. He says:—"The Italian peoples aspire to obtain for themselves the enjoyment of a complete national existence. They ought, therefore, to desire—as, indeed, they do desire—the unity and independence of Italy; but their efforts are partly shackled by a fatal prejudice. A phantom stands in their path—they add imaginary difficulties to the numerous real ones which assail them, and thus enfeeble the ardour which is essential to the success of grand enterprises. It is believed throughout Italy that England and France are, and ever will be, hostile to the unity of Italy, by reason of petty rivalries and envy. This I am convinced to be an error. In their grand and legitimate pride, France and England, those leaders of European civilisation, must be, and are, inaccessible to any sentiments of rivalry or envy with respect to any nationality; and, in the might of their manful intelligence, they understand that their grandeur and prosperity must gain by the increasing grandeur and prosperity of their neighbors. My conviction on this point is firm; but it would be powerless for the refutation of the error which I have pointed out were it not supported by the organs of public opinion in France and England."

RUSSIAN SPIES.—The Stockholm *Aftonbladet* contains an article descriptive of the spying employed by the Russian-Finnish Government. It states, among other instances, the following:—"A student at Helsingfors was dispatched to Stockholm to watch Finlanders residing at the Swedish capital. His object soon came to light, however, and the consequence was, that the students of Helsingfors pronounced sentence of exclusion against him, and nothing remained for the Russian authorities but to disavow him, so General de Berg ratified the sentence. Opinions," adds the *Aftonbladet*, "are much more hostile to Russia than they were. Even the most purblind open their eyes to the Russian system, to the weakness of her military power, and to the immense evils which the war has inflicted upon Finland. General Berg will be replaced in his command, it is said, by a Count Lieven (?). Huts of wood, covered to the height of three or four feet with earth, have been erected at Sveaborg for the troops."

SCARCITY IN PRUSSIA.—The manufacture of spirits from potatoes has, of late, increased to such a large extent in Prussia, and the price of potatoes has, in consequence, risen so enormously, that the poorer classes are now no longer able to purchase a commodity which has hitherto formed their chief means of subsistence. Numerous appeals have been made to Government on this subject by certain parties, who, actuated by motives of humanity, have endeavoured, as far as possible, to check the distillation of spirits from potatoes. These appeals have at last been successful, and notice has been given by the Excise that henceforth the drawback on the exportation of spirits (which amounts to some 18s. for circa 20 gallons) will no longer be allowed. It is not, however, anticipated that this measure will produce the desired effect, inasmuch as the exportation trade in this article has, during the last few years, been, comparatively speaking, very small indeed.—*Letter from Berlin.*

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE King of Sardinia has returned to his own dominions, no doubt with increased determination to carry out the policy which has made him the friend of the two great Powers of Europe, and guaranteed his throne to him amid the coming shaking of the nations. The ultramontane party in Ireland and in France have been greatly bewildered to know how to deal with a Sovereign with whom, under other circumstances, they would have dealt savagely enough. King Victor has reformed the Church, and swept away the rabble of friars, monks, and other parasites that render the religion of Italy something worse than a superstition, and for this he is under the "serious displeasure" of Rome. For, be it noted, the wrath of Rome is of a very elastic character, and can, according to the demands or permission of the times, be either gentle rebuke or fiery excommunication. Had Victor Emmanuel shrunk from joining the Allies, and remained neutral, Rome would not have been afraid to launch at him all the fireworks of St. Angelo. But, as it is, infallibility knew better; the French bayonets in Rome presented significant hints that the evil King had good friends—and so the offences, which, if Papal dogmas are anything but shuffling jesuitry, ought, in accordance with the teaching of the Church, to have been terribly punished, are skimmed over, and the Romish representatives, here and in France, are obliged to pay every religious attention to the Church reformer. They growl viciously in newspapers, but they crouch in public; and their anger manifests itself in abuse of those who, humbly and for the sake of information, ask on what principle the severe displeasure of Rome produces prayers and compliments in Paris and London. The vaunted "bonds of the Church" must surely be india-rubber bands, and Cardinal Wiseman's "ecclesiastical Latin" must be in larger use than we knew of. Nothing equals the ingenuity of interpretation—the immortal instance in the "Tale of a Tub" is no caricature. The father bequeathed estates to his sons conditionally that they should never wear lace on their coats. Lace came into fashion, and then they discovered that the word they had supposed to mean "lace" meant, in some old Hebrew manuscript, rather illegible, "a broomstick." It was objected that this could not be the father's meaning—it was absurd, nobody ever wore a broomstick, it was "non-natural reading." Upon this the objector was abused as profane for bringing his human reason to bear upon such a matter, and out came the brethren in the best lace to be bought in France. The broomstick principle of interpretation is not lost, either in Rome, or nearer home, when awkward words come awkwardly in the way.

The singular poison case, in which Mr. Wooler was committed, in August last, for the murder of his wife by continuous doses of arsenic, has just terminated, after a long trial at Durham, in the acquittal of the accused person. The inquiry was very elaborate, but the Judge (Mr. Justice Martin) evidently summed up for the prisoner, and, after the verdict, intimated that he would have interfered earlier, but that he thought it best the case should be heard to the end. He added that, if he had to make a surmise, his "fancy" would have lighted upon another person than the husband. By an exhaustive process, it is possible to arrive at a species of impression as to the individual to whom suspicion will, by some persons, be transferred; but the case is still in mystery, and it is far from impossible that a second investigation may take place. It is proved, and moreover admitted, that the poor lady was destroyed by the mineral poison in question, gradually and skilfully administered. The medical witnesses were very roughly handled: it is matter of remark that the Bar have the same kind of feeling towards the other profession that the fishermen on the coast have for the dog-fish, and that whenever a doctor is caught by a lawyer he is tormented. But in this instance the medical men were subjected to something graver than mere forensic castigation. The prisoner's counsel spoke of their "shameful conduct," and the Judge, though not adopting such language, censured them severely by implication. Yet, in justice to these gentlemen, be it said that they were placed in a situation requiring a singular and painful discretion. Doubtless, their duty, when discovering that poisoning was going on, was to take the rough-and-ready course of calling in the police. But they knew, or at least believed, that their doing so would have at once slain their patient, whom they imagined they could preserve by silently fighting the murderer across the death-bed. After what has occurred, and after the intimation from the Judge that the criminal has yet to be looked for, it is probable that, on the second occasion, Justice will not make her search in vain.

The "Redemptorist Father" who was tried for burning the Protestant Bible has been acquitted, for want of proof that he knew what he was burning. It is alleged that his intention was only to consume a quantity of "immoral works" of a secular character, as certain histories written in a Protestant spirit, and the penny publications that guide servant-maids in their choice of sweethearts, creeds, and liquor to remove freckles. It was suggested that, as the inflammatory Father had to convey these wares for some distance, a malicious Protestant might have dropped the Bibles into the heap, *in transitu*, in order to get up the present charge. All this was possible, though no human being, either Catholic or Protestant, believed it for a moment, and the law could do no more. The Attorney-General, Mr. Keogh, spoke well, and it was hardly to be expected that, as a Catholic, he would have gone to work and demolished the strolling friars, as Mr. Whiteside, Q.C., would have done. The Government has done all that was proper; and, though a month at the crank might have done Pecherini no harm, it is far better that the scrupulous demands of law should have been complied with, than that a conviction should have been irregularly obtained. The lower order in Dublin are wild with delight at the escape of the priest, an ecstasy partly national (for the Irish peasant always likes to see an accused person get off, innocent or guilty), and partly fanatical. One sympathiser carried his delight so far as to commit a brutal assault upon one of the witnesses, and this indiscretion transferred the honours of martyrdom from the priest to the layman, for as it was difficult even for a Redemptorist's tool to prove that he did not know what he was hitting, and that a Protestant shoved himself in the way in order to get up a prosecution, he was handed into gaol for three months' hard labour. He will, however, be favourably mentioned from a good many altars during his martyrdom.

The insecure state of the metropolis in regard to robberies with violence is a subject of alarming interest, and, now that the dark cold nights have come on, it really behoves those whose lives have any real or supposed value to beware how they pass along unfrequented roads or solitary streets. You seldom join a social circle in which one or more of the party has not to tell of some outrage, more or less violent, within his own knowledge. One will tell you that in St. John's Wood a friend of his was felled by a blow from a man who pretended to wish to know his way; another will report that he was tripped up in a court near St. Martin's-lane, kicked, and robbed; and a third will inform you of an attempt to garrote him within a few doors of his own house in the Adelphi. A lady will tell you that, being a few yards in advance of her husband, near the Regent's-park, a man rushed up from a by-turning and pushed her down, but took to flight on discovering that she was accompanied. These, and hundreds of similar cases, are unpublished; but the police cases where a ruffian has been captured (an event that happens once in fifty times) will further illustrate the state of the metropolis in this period of high civilisation. We were rather better off in this respect in the days of King Alfred, when the criminal, taken in the fact, instead of being coddled and presented with tracts, and a ticket of leave was simply tucked up to the next tree. The British ruffian knows how many chances he has: first, he may not be caught; secondly, he will not be convicted if magistrates, or any one else, can help him to escape; and thirdly, his sentence, should the worst happen, will be an agreeable retirement, in which fetters and flogging are unmentionable things, and where any gaoler who may take the liberty of annoying him will be indignantly put in his place. Such is the state of things, and it seems likely to be worse before long, as the ticket-of-leave men become more alive to the advantages afforded them.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships met at two o'clock on Tuesday. The Lords Commissioners (the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, and the Earl of Harrowby) took their seats on the cross bench, in front of the throne.

The Commons having been summoned (the House being represented by Mr. Shaw Lefevre), the commission was read, and the Lord Chancellor rose and said, that, by virtue of the commission just read, he, in the name of her Majesty, declared Parliament further prorogued until Tuesday, the 31st of January, then and there to proceed with dispatch of business. The Commons then retired, and their Lordships adjourned.

THE MONETARY REFORM COMMITTEE.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE meeting of currency reformers, metropolitan and provincial, held last week at the London Tavern, has appointed a committee to communicate with the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, with the view to national organisation. It has also been intimated that a bill for presentation to Parliament will be prepared within a fortnight; but this celerity of movement appears scarcely compatible with an extended consultation with the Chambers of Commerce, which must occupy considerable time. The simple proposition which has for many years been before the public, and which has been adopted by all the older students of monetary science, is to put gold at its market price in national legal-tender money; and if any departure from this principle take place a fatal disunion will arise. Bullionism has asserted, but never proved, that it is the essence of money to possess intrinsic value, and thus taken for granted the very gist of the controversy. The advocates of representative money insist that legal tender need not and ought not to possess any intrinsic value whatever, but that it is simply a token of value. Until these antagonistic preliminaries are settled, it is waste of time to talk about a true monetary system, and any argument on details must end in a verbal dispute.

The *Times*, on the 7th inst., calls on the committee "to settle the few cabalistic words to be engraved on the paper. There is a force and simplicity in the words 'I promise to pay £5 on demand,' which will not be easily matched by any more philosophic formula that we are aware of."

This has an air of smartness about it, and may probably satisfy superficial readers; but, on analysis, it will be found to be mere *ad captandum*, for it proceeds on the assumption that it is the essence of money to possess intrinsic value, and that legal tender can be made of no other material than gold. This is a sheer *petitio principii*, a begging of the question. A penny postage-stamp does not bear on its face the cabalistic words "I promise to carry a letter," and still it does carry a letter. It has no intrinsic value, but it has a conventional value derived from the authority of the State, which called it into existence for a special national purpose. That purpose it discharges. It will not, indeed, carry a letter from Paris to Bordeaux, or from Petersburg to Moscow, and it would be comparatively worthless if it did, for then it would be liable to exportation; and, if the number of these stamps were annually limited by the Post-office, of course those which remained after many of them had been exported would rise in price, and we might have to pay a shilling or half-a-crown for the transmission of a letter instead of a penny. We are preserved from this inconvenience and injustice simply because the postage-stamp is valuable at home, while it is valueless abroad; and, if our money were of a similar character, the export of gold would do us no more harm than the export of cotton or iron.

But are the cabalistic words "I promise to pay," which, according to the *Times*, contain so much "force and simplicity," words of truth or words of deception? Let us quote Lord Overstone's interpretation of "I promise to pay." Writing in 1840, his Lordship said:—"It is not sufficient merely to ordain, as Peel's Bill did (the Act of 1819), the convertibility of the notes; it is further necessary to see that effectual means are provided for that end. It is now discovered that there is a liability to excessive issues of paper, even while that paper is convertible at will; and that, to preserve the value of a paper circulation, not only must that paper be convertible into metallic money, but the whole of its oscillations must be made to correspond exactly, both in time and amount, with what would be the oscillations of a metallic currency, as indicated by the state of the bullion." In this passage we are told in plain terms that, if the Bank puts out a five-pound note, it must always hold five sovereigns in its coffers to redeem its promise to pay. This we can perfectly understand; there is such an identity between the note and the bullion, that the only fault we could find with the arrangement, as a theory, is the existence of notes at all; dismiss them altogether, and operate with bullion alone. That would be consistent; for, under this scheme, bullion is the substance and paper only the shadow.

But is the system recommended by Lord Overstone embodied in the Act of 1844? Far from it. The Bank is allowed to issue fourteen millions of promises to pay without holding any bullion to redeem that promise, so that the cabalistic words are moonshine, or, what is worse, sheer deception. If the Bank has twenty millions of outstanding promises to pay, she must hold gold for six millions, but need not hold a grain of gold for the other fourteen millions. All the notes, however, bear on their face the same engraving of "I promise to pay," though the Legislature has made no provision for such payment, and thus the public are deluded. But, if we look at the whole permitted circulation, we find that the promises to pay for which no mercantile equivalent is held amount in round numbers to thirty-one millions: thus, the Bank of England, fourteen millions; English provincial banks, eight millions; Irish, six millions; Scotch, three millions. Surely this is not the plan of Lord Overstone. Surely this is not a practical response to the doctrine of Sir Robert Peel, who, on bringing forward the Act of 1844, expressed himself in the following terms:—"The whole foundation of my measure rests on the assumption that, according to practice—according to law—according to the ancient monetary policy of this country—the meaning of a pound is neither more nor less than a certain quantity of gold, with a mark upon it to determine its weight and fineness; and that the engagement to pay a pound means nothing, and can mean nothing, else than the promise to pay to the holder on demand, when he demands it, a definite quantity of the precious metals." Why, then, allow the issue of thirty-one millions of notes not secured by bullion, and therefore inconvertible? Surely the Act belies itself.

Amphora capiti

Institui; currenre rota, cur urceus exit?

The Bank is never in a condition to redeem its promises to pay; it always depends on the forbearance of its customers; but, when gold is being exported, it is not allowed to show any forbearance to the public. It must save itself by destroying all around it; but, if that sacrifice is not sufficient, it calls on the Government to suspend the law, and the Government complies—the very best evidence that the cabalistic words "I promise to pay" have a force which becomes paralytic, and a simplicity which amounts to deception.

The national note recommended as imperial legal tender would be of a very different character; nor would it have engraved upon its face "I promise to pay," but "I promise to receive." The Executive would put it into circulation by paying with it the salaries of all public functionaries, of the Army and Navy, the dividends of the fundholder, and whatever it might owe to contractors; and it would covenant to take back the notes, in discharge of taxes, at precisely the same value as that at which they had been issued. The promise to receive would always be fulfilled; whereas the promise to pay is a mere contingency. It reflects no credit on the honour of the press to persist in charges repeatedly denied, and to accuse its opponents of a desire to put out unlimited issues, when it is notorious that the advocates of imperial money rigidly limit the amount to the amount of annual taxation; it is unmanly to insist that this money would depreciate, since provision is made for its constant, even daily, redemption; and it is wilful misrepresentation to describe such notes as inconvertible, since the very condition of their existence would be their convertibility into taxes; or, if the holder chose, into gold at its market price. Let us

A RUSSIAN VIEW OF THE PEACE RUMOURS.—The rumours of peace, one day favourably received, are next day regarded with incredulity. Owing to what has been published in England and France about the exhaustion of Russia, many people are quite disposed to believe that Russia is imploring peace. These good folks completely delude themselves. Undoubtedly Russia would prefer peace to war; she would gladly accept peace, but she does not sue for it as a beggar. Russia, on whom the war is inflicting heavy losses, is not ignorant that it costs her enemies dear also, and she feels in herself a genial current quite adequate to the preservation of her full vitality, notwithstanding the blows now being, or about to be, levelled against her. She does not underestimate the strength of her aggressors, but she knows her own strength of resistance, a strength increased tenfold by the feeling of national honour, by the enthusiasm of a people, and an army fighting in defence of their native land, in sight of God, whom they invoke, and in the name of the Emperor, who blesses them. Russia has done nothing, has said nothing, to authorise the belief that she will now go beyond the concessions she made at Vienna for the sake of securing the peace of the world. We repeat, and we do so without growing weary, that the rumours of peace will be entitled to no sort of credit so long as the Western Alliance shall not have categorically laid down what the conditions are which in its opinion will render peace possible.—*Le Nord.*



THE EXPLOSION OF THE RIGHT SIEGE-TRAIN, NEAR INKERMAN MILL.—SKETCHED BY E. A. GOODALL.—(SEE PAGE 694.)



RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST. PAUL, SEBASTOPOL.—SKETCHED BY E. A. GOODALL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL AT SEBASTOPOL.

WE engrave the interior of this edifice as it appeared after the siege, when sketched by Mr. Goodall. We add the descriptive notes by a Correspondent who accompanied the Artist.

No building—of its class at least—excited more attention or admiration during the siege than that the interior of which is represented in Mr. Goodall's Sketch. Though stripped of its decorations, and bearing the marks of rough usage here and there on the outside from the artillery of the besieging army, it did not appear to have experienced at the hands of the Russians the same treatment as they gave all other parts of the ill-fated town with much impartiality. On the 27th of September, however, they seemed to have repented of their lenient usage, for on that day they sent a shell into it which converted it into a complete wreck. It was set on fire: the roof was burnt and fell in; every particle of combustible matter in and about it was consumed; and it was reduced to the condition a literal copy of which is now seen in the Engraving. The outside remains nearly as it was represented in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS a few weeks since, the roof and one column of the west front excepted. This column had been damaged by a shot during the siege, and toppled over during the burning of the roof. As Marshal Pelissier was close to the building when the shell descended, it is not unlikely that the missile in question was meant for him. It failed in its errand to a gallant soldier, but succeeded to admiration in making a most interesting ruin. Once an artist gets into it now it is no easy matter to get him out, it "composes" so well, and the lights, at the proper times of course, are so admirable. A gun from the redoubt to the right of Fort Catherine has thrown a shot just three feet below the window, through which a figure is represented looking through a telescope. It is a very nice ruin as it stands, wanting only ivy to make it perfect; and the Russian gunners would do well to let it alone, for another shell or two will assuredly spoil it.

The Illustration opposite that of the Remains above described shows the Explosion at Inkerman, which was narrated in our Correspondent's Letter in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of Dec. 1; and was further detailed in our Journal of last week. The effect of the explosion is there described as if of an upheaving of the ground, and at the same time that a violent shock was felt from the concussion of the air:—"Almost instantly followed the loud report of the explosion; not sounding as if a single charge or magazine had been fired, and without the report of a salvo of artillery, but seeming rather as if a number of magazines had been discharged, so rapidly that all the reports were blended into one. Then came the sharp cracking sounds of shells bursting high in the air, the rush of fragments falling to the ground; and the loud bangs of shells which had been scattered and were exploding on all sides. The appearance from a distance is described as a swelling column of smoke, out of which shot rays of light, ascending to a great height, and these, curving and bursting with brilliant star-like centres of light, had the appearance of a magnificent display of fireworks."

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 16.—3rd Sunday in Advent.
MONDAY, 17.—Guy, founder of the celebrated Hospital, died, 1724.
TUESDAY, 18.—General Bolivar died, 1830.
WEDNESDAY, 19.—Dr. Darwin died, 1732. Tycho Brahe born, 1586.
THURSDAY, 20.—Gray born, 1716.
FRIDAY, 21.—St. Thomas.
SATURDAY, 22.—Holcroft born, 1744. Sully died, 1641.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 22, 1855.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
2 7	3 3	4 0	4 15	4 47	5 10	5 48

LIST OF ENGRAVINGS IN THIS WEEK'S "ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS."

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THE SMITHFIELD CLUB PRIZES.

Next week we shall engrave some of the finest specimens of the PRIZE STOCK and IMPLEMENTS at the SMITHFIELD CLUB SHOW; also Groups of Prizes from the BIRMINGHAM POULTRY SHOW; with other Illustrations of the Season. To be published with the Grand Annual Christmas Number and the Christmas Supplement, printed in colours.

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The Angel appearing to the Shepherds. Drawn by John Gilbert.
London: Returning from Church on Christmas Morning. Drawn by George Thomas.

Bringing in the Boar's Head. Drawn by J. Gilbert.
Singing the Christmas Carol. Drawn by Phiz.

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In addition to these, the ordinary CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT will contain, among others, the following Illustrations:—

The Monster Snowball.
Cold Without. Drawn by S. Read.
The King and the Jolly Miller. Drawn by John Gilbert.
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Drawn by John O. Clayton.
The Shower of Toys; a German Custom.
Conjuring for Children's Parties. By Professor Anderson, the Great Wizard of the North. With an Illustration.
Christmas Cattle Arriving at the Tottenham Station, Eastern Counties Railway.
And a variety of other subjects appropriate to the season.

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1855.

WE regret to record the surrender of the city of Kars. But our gallant countrymen, who yielded to famine, and not to the might of the foe, have withdrawn with all the honours, leaving to History to emblazon their names in her brightest pages. The result, as

regards the possession of this fortress, though not as regards the imperishable renown of its gallant defenders, might have been different if Omer Pacha had not—through jealousy, miscalculation, and other mismanagement—been allowed to waste the whole summer in the Crimea; or if he had been dispatched even a fortnight earlier into Asia. But it is too late to deplore the check the Allies have received. Let us hope that Omer Pacha will yet be enabled to besiege the Russians, as they besieged General Williams, and to recapture the fortress.

Austrian diplomacy still gives signs of life. It appears that the recent talk of peace which has fluttered the gentle bosoms that congregate in the Exchange of London and the Bourse of Paris, and in the minor porticos of the temples of Mammon in other cities of Europe, was first heard in Vienna, and that the Court of St. Petersburg has made no sign of approval—much less of acquiescence. It is well that the public should know exactly from what source these and other pacific overtures have emanated, that their proper value, and no more, should be attached to them. While refusing to join in the ridiculous outcry against anything and everything that Austria may do or recommend, which we regret to see indulged in by a gentleman in the position of Sir Robert Peel, we cannot anticipate any success for her efforts at pacification unless she be secretly prompted by the Russian Government. There is no proof whatever that such is the case; nor is there any ground for the belief that Russia is not as obstinately disposed as ever to carry on the war, and as ignorant as the late Czar Nicholas was of his own weakness, and the real feeling of Europe. The anxiety of Austria to put an end to the war is both laudable and natural; but it is the misfortune of the Government of that country to mistake the means, in its intense love for the end. With such dangers and such large powder-magazines in its territories and on its frontiers, Austria cannot look with complacency upon the lighted torches which Russia, France, Sardinia, Turkey, and England are brandishing in every direction. Wise statesmanship and true courage would enable the Emperor Francis Joseph to rise superior to the difficulty of his position; but he is not up to the mark; and, hating war as earnestly as John Bright, though with a different motive, he does the utmost in his power to perpetuate it, by setting his diplomatists to talk, when he ought to be putting his armies into motion. Fortunately for the cause of peace, the Allies are neither to be thwarted nor delayed in their warlike operations by the palaver, honestly or dishonestly meant, of the statesmen of Vienna or any other place. If, while the war is working itself out by the cogent argument of the sword, Austria can induce Russia to accede to terms which the Allies will ultimately extort from her,—with additions,—so much the better for Austria and for Russia; and so much the better, we are free to admit, to the Allies themselves, who have no wish beyond honourable peace, solidly guaranteed. There is no harm in Diplomacy if it do not lead the British or French Governments to relax in their preparations for the continuance of the war, or lull them into laziness by illusory expectations. Of neither of these things is there any fear. It may please the friends of Russia, as it pleases some of the wise men of Manchester, to imagine that Napoleon III. is weary of the war, and anxious—from financial as well as other reasons—to get out of it, *coute qui coute*,—but the truth is not so. Great and mighty as is the Emperor of the French, he could not make peace on terms inconsistent with the honour of his own nation or with the security of Europe. His sceptre would snap in his hands, if anything in his character could justify the suspicion that he prized peace beyond justice. There may be men—happily not in office—who aspire to rank as British statesmen, and who can talk as glibly as Old Bailey barristers in support of a wrongful and dishonourable cause, who hold such opinions; but the instinct—the heart—the sound common sense of the English nation are against them. A Ministry composed of such men could not stand for a week, if by any fatality the country could be outraged by its appointment. If we can have peace such as we can conquer, without conquering it, by all means let us have it; and gratitude will be due to the men and to the States who do the world such service. In the mean time we place more reliance upon the fleet of gun-boats that will appear before Cronstadt in the spring than upon the mellifluous soft-sawder of Count Buol-Schauenstein, or the amiability of Baron Brück, who governs the Austrian Empire upon the same principles as he would a chandler's shop. If Austria means peace, why does she disband her army?

THE astrologers are more dull this Christmas than ever. Their predictions are helplessly general—scarcely beyond the oracular *nous verrons*, and their "fulfilments" of last year's prophecies are sadly childish. Even Dr. Cumming beats them. Can they see nothing through the blanket of the dark? One would think that a very ordinary intelligence, acting on a very slightly-excited imagination, could make better guesses than our star-gazing charlatans. Really we cannot call it prophecy to warn the world that "about this time a noble family will experience trouble," or consider the augury satisfactorily interpreted by our being reminded, a year afterwards, that at the time specified "Lord Tom Noddy had the measles." As the Vicar of Wakefield said to his daughter, "Is that all you got for two shillings? Why, child, I would have told you a better fortune for sixpence." We think that for the latter sum we can furnish the world with a prophecy affecting most people who will read it.

Some years ago there was a railway fever very prevalent throughout these islands. It raged everywhere. Like something else, of which the classics tell us, it kicked at every door with an impartial foot. The Shakespearean line wanted but the elision of a vowel to describe the state of things: "All the world's a stag." Most of us remember those days, and their ending. The great Pan was not dead, and one of his terrible Fears came upon us all. Who has forgotten that time? Who has forgotten the Railway Panic? Well, is it impossible that, one of these days, we may have another? Where are the prophets? Where is Dr. Dee's stone? Where is the book, written in red letters on unbaptised skin, that frightens the noble family that owns it by falling from its Gothic shelf when anything which it foretells is about to happen?

The prophets are dumb; the stone shines not; the book is tranquil between its neighbours. Suppose, then, that we look out for ourselves.

The trine
Of waning planets—bodes it not Decay?
Does Schedir's staff of diamond wave no sign,
Monarch of midnight, Sirius, pales thy ray!

But perhaps one need not look so far as the stars for the indications that are to guide our prophetic researches. *Sapiens dominabitur astris?* The signs and tokens lie near at hand, and, from an examination of them, we have little hesitation in predicting that at no distant date there will be another railway earthquake, of a character dissimilar to the last, but one which will be felt all over the country, and which will probably end—if the most favourable result occur—in a re-settlement of the entire system of steam inland traffic.

For to what is that system now drifting? Few persons read the reports of railway meetings except—and the exception is a formidable one—the individuals personally interested. Others glance along the column, and unless they observe a bit of very spicy vituperation, or an account of how the shareholders tempered the despotism of their manager by a shower of missiles, they pass the affair by. Yet, if they would be good enough to read and to try to comprehend the proceedings at these meetings, they would be led to the inference that things cannot stop in the state in which they are. Let us pass, for the present, the Great Western Railway, and its remarkable politics, and one or two other cases, and let us look at this unhappy Eastern Counties Line, of which much has been heard, but of which there is much more to hear. We gave, last week, a summary of the report of the committee charged to inquire into the misconduct of the manager and his subordinates, and this disclosed one of the most singular illustrations of the rotten thing called commercial morality which it is possible to conceive. The report has been called an *ex parte* statement, and to a certain extent it is so; much as the master of a house who comes down to the ground-floor, and finds his plate gone and his ladder stripped, offers an *ex parte* statement when he exclaims that he has been robbed. However, everybody assailed by the report threatens to exculpate himself at awful length. They advertise and protest, and beg that judgment may be suspended, and so forth. We only wonder that Isaac Moses, or whatever may be the respected name of the "marine-store keeper" who is stated to have bought as "old stores" goods that had cost the company "40 per cent over market price," has not written to the *Times*. Has he nothing to say for himself when so many other good men are on their defence?

But, people reply, what do we care about the squabbles of the company? There always seems to be a riot at such meetings; but Bradshaw comes out with the list of trains as usual, and they start, and arrive more or less punctually. To be sure, we have accidents occasionally, as on the North Kent line last week, when "all the unfortunate passengers were more or less contused, and four were frightfully hurt—one having his legs so fractured that one of them had to be amputated, and his only chance for life lay in having the second off; while another had fracture of the thigh, and a woman had a dislocated hip." But these are small matters, and, when described in the pleasant but somewhat cold-blooded phraseology of the railway officials, we can hardly feel shocked at them. Mr. Secretary Smiles coolly writes next day that, *though* there was much alarm, "the only serious case was that of a working-man whose legs are fractured." Mr. Smiles knows what is serious better than the people who are hurt—and, as he says, it is only a working-man! as if working-men did not want their legs like other people! These casualties, it is supposed, have nothing to do with the quarrels at the meetings; and besides, the Eastern Counties secretary has anticipated terror, by advertising that the executive officers continue to carry on the working management of the railway "with the same efficiency as before," and (merry Mr. Owen!) the arrangements "for the safe and regular conveyance of passengers remain unchanged." That comforting assurance must surely shut all mouths. Everybody knows how proverbially efficient the Eastern Counties management has been; and, as for safety, it will never be known how many accidents passengers on that line and the London and South-Eastern have escaped.

This is, in some sense, an answer, and the best that we are likely to get. It is possible that a mismanaged company—its directors at sixes and sevens, its managers defying the shareholders, and its officials feeling, of course, all the responsibility which makes the servants of a disorganised house so regular and obedient—may pay that scrupulous attention to the details of railway management without which no man's life is worth half an hour's purchase after his purchase of his ticket. This is the age of miracles, and why should not one be wrought on the Eastern Counties Line? The line is itself a miracle, and has been one ever since the company spent between London and Colchester all the money that ought to have franked them to Norwich. But if affairs should take a natural instead of a supernatural course, and the result of confusion, jobbery, and mystification in the higher department should be carelessness and recklessness in the lower, and one of the hundred chances of railway life should go against the traveller—in a word, if a disastrous accident should occur, the public, for whom, after all, railways are made, will begin with a Panic, and end with something very like Lynch law. Once convince the people that life and limb (which they ignorantly value, despite Mr. Smiles) are jeopardised by jobbery, and in six months the railways will be in the hands of Government, with a railway stock open in Threadneedle-street. In the mean time things look very awkwardly indeed, and prophecy is too easy to be worth offering.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR 1856.—Travellers on their way from Nicolaieff relate that the town is quite metamorphosed. The most important fortifications are at a distance of five versts from it, at the confluence of the Ingoul with the Bug. A triple circle of defensive works protects the approaches to the town, and 400 guns of every calibre are in battery. Whole streets of little buildings have been razed, in order to make way for the barracks and hospitals; and the magazines for military effects and munitions have been built bombproof. The Admiralty that was is now changed into a star fort, named after Admiral Lazareff. Everywhere prodigious activity is displayed, and the bridge near Varvaroffka is perpetually blocked up with guns and loaded waggons. The Grand Duke Constantine inspected lately 80 newly-arrived mortars, with which the batteries on Spasska Point are to be armed. His Imperial Highness was extremely pleased with the range and power of these pieces of ordnance, the carriages of which have been made according to the suggestions of General Todleben.—Letter from Odessa, Nov. 27.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Prince, accompanied by Prince Alfred, Prince Arthur, and Prince Leopold, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, Princess Helena, and Princess Louise, left Windsor Castle on Monday morning, at ten o'clock, for Osborne.

The Prince of Wales remains at the Castle, attended by Mr. Gibbs.

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston returned to London on Monday, from a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Bedford at Woburn Abbey.

The Lady Bertha Hastings, second daughter of the Marchioness of Hastings, was married to Capt. A. W. Clifton, late of the Rifle Brigade, son of the late Mr. Clifton, of Lytham Hall, Lancashire, on Tuesday last. The following young ladies attended Lady Bertha to the altar:—The Ladies Victoria and Constance Hastings (her sisters), the Hon. Barbara Yelverton, Miss Chandos Pole, Miss Howard, and Miss Thorpe.

The *Hamilton Spectator* (Canada West) announces the marriage of Sophia, second daughter of the Hon. Sir Alan Napier M'Nab, to Viscount Bury, only son of the Earl of Albemarle, which took place at Dundurn Castle, the residence of the bride's father, on Thursday, November 15th. The Roman Catholic marriage ceremony, rendered necessary by the bride's adherence to that faith, was performed at an early hour in the morning. Shortly after eleven a.m. his Excellency Sir Edmund and Lady Head arrived at Dundurn from Toronto. The Lord Bishop of Toronto, assisted by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Kingston, uncle of the bride, performed the marriage ceremony of the Church of England. The bride was given away by her father. At the déjeuner, after the ceremony, the health of the newly-married pair was proposed by his Excellency the Governor-General.

COUNTRY NEWS.

THE MINISTER OF CRATHIE AND THE QUEEN.—Her Majesty has commanded the publication of the sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Caird, of Errol, in Crathie Church, in October last, during her Majesty's sojourn at Balmoral. The sermon is entitled "The Religion of Common Life."—(It is no secret about Balmoral that Prince Albert expressed his high satisfaction with Mr. Caird's pulpit discourse and appearance by stating that he had not heard a preacher like him for seven years, and did not expect to enjoy a like pleasure for as long a period to come.)—*Aberdeen Herald*.

REPRESENTATION OF NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE.—A change is likely to take place in the representation of North Staffordshire by the resignation of Mr. Smith Child, which is contemplated. Mr. Hugo Meynell Ingram, of Hoarcross-hall, Staffordshire, has been solicited to succeed him in the Conservative interest. Mr. Ingram, however, has declined to be put in nomination, and Mr. Child's committee have requested that gentleman to reconsider his decision. Should Mr. Child still determine to retire from the representation of North Staffordshire, Lord Sandon will be requested to offer himself.

STATUE TO WATT AT MANCHESTER.—A meeting was held at the Town-hall, Manchester, on Tuesday last, to originate a subscription to erect a statue to James Watt, the inventor of the steam-engine. The statue is to be a copy of the one by Chantrey in Westminster Abbey, and is to be placed in the large area in front of the Infirmary, in company with the statues of Wellington, Peel, and Dalton. Most of the leading men of Manchester were present, and appeared to enter most heartily into the project, which originated in a suggestion from the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

DISCOVERY OF STONE COFFINS IN FORFARSHIRE.—On the farm of Bankhead, near Brechin, while the workmen were employed in removing some gravel from a hillock, in a field which had, for many years past, been under cultivation, they came upon two stone coffins, one almost entire, and the other much broken. They were lying a small distance from one another. In the whole one, when opened, there was found a vase or urn, but it did not contain any coin or relic whereby could be traced its antiquity; in the other there were some human remains, consisting of bones and a small piece of skull. The whole was found very little below the surface; indeed so near that the plough had often come in contact with them.

"THE MISSING CLERGYMAN."—The explanation of this affair, which has attracted so much public notice, is as follows:—It is said that some expression fell from the lips of the intended bride during the last interview which was misconstrued by the gentleman into something like a regret at the step she was about to take, and that, without seeking an explanation, he pondered over the words, which preyed upon his mind as he walked into Gloucester, and he got worked up into such a state of distraction that nothing could satisfy him short of flight. He now writes from America in the deepest agony of despair, regretting the pain he has caused to all parties concerned, confessing, on cooler reflection, that he had put a wrong interpretation upon the words then uttered, and taking all the blame upon himself. —*Gloucester Journal*.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—The official returns called for by the Government have been published in tabular forms, and the following abstract will show the quantity of live stock in Ireland in each of the years 1852-3, 4-5:—The increase in numbers from 1852 to 1855 was 30,448 horses, 461,549 cattle, 984,528 sheep, and 101,568 pigs. Total value of the live stock in Ireland in each of the years 1852, 1853, 1854, and 1855, calculated according to the rates assumed by the Census Commissioners of 1841, viz.:—For horses, £8 each; cattle, £6 10s.; sheep, 22s.; and pigs, 25s. each. The increase in value from 1852 to 1855 was £243,554 for horses, £3,000,069 for cattle, £1,082,981 for sheep, £126,975 for pigs; the total increase being £4,453,981. The next table gives an abstract of the cereal crops for the years 1854-55. The increase on cereal crops was 87,293 acres. The increase on green crops was 25,513 acres. The general summary gives the following results:—Increase on cereal crops, 87,293 acres; ditto on green crops, 25,513; ditto on meadow and clover, 33,873—total, 166,679 acres. Deduct decrease on flax, 54,297 acres. Total increase in the extent of land under crops, 112,382 acres.

SHARPERS.—Last week two sharpers, under the guise of commercial travellers, seeking for agents to whom they might intrust goods for sale on commission, called on various merchants in Avy, Maybole, and Girvan. Those who agreed to their conditions signed blank papers, which, it appears, were stamped. On these, bills were drawn and discounted to the amount of £140. The acceptors of the bills being made aware of the transaction, and seeing how they had been duped, immediately applied to the police. A message by telegraph was sent to the Procurator-Fiscal at Kilmarnock, where the sharpers had gone, and on the arrival of the train the two worthies were immediately secured.

STORM IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.—The north of Scotland has been visited by a severe snowstorm. It commenced on Wednesday, the 5th inst., and continued all the week. The snow was lying to a considerable depth in the country, and some of the roads were nearly impassable.

LEWIS WAR PRISON.—The order for the exclusion of visitors from the prison, consequent on the disorderly conduct of the Finnish soldiers about a month since, has been rescinded, and strangers are again admitted. The prisoners, encouraged by this improvement in their affairs, are once more busily engaged in the manufacture of toys, in which they have wonderfully improved during their incarceration, and they now produce workboxes, watch-stands, and various other useful and ornamental articles, carving them out of pieces of deal with large clasp-knives, which are so sharp that they frequently shave themselves with them. The demand for their toys is still very brisk; and large parties from Brighton arrive by train or in private carriages daily, much to the benefit of the hotel-keepers, confectioners, and others of the town. During the Brighton season the traffic between that town and Lewes on certain days is three times as much as it was previously to the establishment of the prison.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—Messrs. Carr and Morrison, of Cwmavon, South Wales, have a pit in work which is about 250 yards deep. The men are conveyed to and from their work by an engine at the top of the shaft, which lifts and lets down a large box or tram for this purpose. As soon as the tram approaches the top from below it touches a bell, which gives the engine-driver timely intimation, in order to stop the ascent. In this case, the unfortunate man in charge says the bell did not ring as usual; but, however this may be, the engine continued its speed, and the tram—containing eight men who were leaving work—was in a moment hurled against the pulley at the top, and the next minute it was, with its living freight, falling with frightful velocity down the shaft they had just ascended. The chain which lifted the tram, coming in contact with the pulley, had snapped, and the whole of the men were killed.

DARING BURGLARY NEAR BARNSELEY.—In addition to the recent murder at Clayton West, there have been, during the past few weeks, no fewer than seven incendiary fires in that vicinity, in which wheat and other property to a considerable amount have been destroyed. Several daring burglaries have been perpetrated by a gang of burglars, who have shown themselves adepts in their "profession," and who have not hesitated to add violence to robbery. Several persons are now in custody on a charge of being implicated in some of these offences. Early on Wednesday morning the house of Mr. Robert Siddons, shopkeeper, of Ardesley, was entered by five desperadoes, who had their faces blackened, and were otherwise disguised. Mr. Siddons struck a light, but had no sooner done so than three of the ruffians rushed into his bed-room, put out his light, and began to use him most brutally. Siddons resisted, but was soon overpowered by the five ruffians, who had all now made their appearance. Some of them proceeded to ransack the house, while the remainder stood over the poor fellow, threatening to take his life if he made the slightest alarm. The ruffians carried off all they could lay their hands on, and made their escape.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Prebendary:* The Rev. T. Branker to the Prebendal Stall of Hentsbridge, in Wells Cathedral.—*Archdeaconry:* Rev. H. Moore to the Archdeaconry of Stafford.—*Rural Deanery:* Rev. W. S. H. Meadows to the Rural Deanery of Romford.—*Canonry:* Rev. T. Branker to the Canonry of Hensbridge, in Wells Cathedral.—*Rectories:* Rev. G. O. Mullens to Chedzoy, Somerset; Rev. P. M. Shipton to Clapton, Somerset; Rev. G. N. Smith to Norton Sub-Hamden, Somerset; Rev. G. H. Newman to West Lydford, in the diocese of Bath and Wells; Rev. T. Woodward to Thundridge, Hertfordshire.—*Vicarages:* Rev. W. Windle to Kertling, near Newmarket; Rev. J. H. Evans to Merriott, Somerset; Rev. W. F. Lanfear to Christchurch, Weston-super-Mare.—*Incumbencies:* Rev. T. Bromley to St. Paul's Church, Tiverton; Rev. P. M. Walter to Edensor, Derbyshire.

The library of the late Rev. Dr. Routh, President of Magdalene College, Oxford, consisting of 20,000 volumes, has arrived in Durham and been added to the University Library, pursuant to his will.

PROFESSOR JOWETT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.—Dr. Macbride, the Principal of Magdalene-hall, and the Rev. Dr. Golightly, M.A., of Oriel College, on Monday called upon the Vice-Chancellor, and lodged with him a formal complaint against a work of the Professor of Greek, Dr. Jowett, as seeming to deny the doctrine of the Atonement.

NEW CANADIAN BISHOPS.—Two new sees are to be formed forthwith out of the present diocese of Toronto, the sanction of the Bishop (Dr. Strachan) having been received. The seat of one of the Bishops will be at London, and the other at Kingston. It is believed that the bishopric of London will be conferred upon the Rev. Dr. Cronyn, a Rural Dean of the diocese; and the bishopric of Kingston upon the Rev. Mr. Hincks, a clergyman at present holding a benefice in the diocese of Down and Connor, a brother of Mr. Hincks, whom Sir William Molesworth recently appointed to the Governorship of Barbadoes.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

The shipwrights employed in the construction of gun-boats on the Wear have received an unsolicited addition of 1s. per day to their pay, which is now two guineas a week. The increase has been given in order to secure the services of good and steady workmen to complete the boats early in the ensuing spring.

CONSIDERABLE activity is going on in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, a great number of workmen being employed in preparing 13-inch mortars and their beds, heavy gun-carriages, and all kinds of stores for the ensuing campaign in the spring. No less than twenty-eight of the large shells, which measure 3 ft. 6 in. and weigh 26 cwt. each, are now lying in the Arsenal. The monster mortar for these shells is made, and it is said, weighs between sixty and seventy tons, and is now lying at Messrs. Mare and Co.'s, Blackwall. The whole of the wharf is covered with 10 and 13 inch shells, besides a large quantity of 68 and 32 pounder guns, and 10 and 13 inch sea-service mortars. A number of small craft are lying off the Arsenal unloading shells from the different English and Scotch foundries.

It is said that Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane will not strike his flag as Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth until the 31st, although his time expires on the 18th. The Flag Captain to Sir George Seymour has not yet been named.

The British Italian Legion is likely to receive a large and immediate reinforcement. At least 9000 Sardinians, whose term of military service has expired, will be at liberty to enter the British Legion, and, as the recruiting officers are active in their vocation, there is reason to believe that a considerable number of them will be immediately enlisted.

An assistant instructor in practical artillery, at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, is to be appointed on the pay of 5s. per diem, with quarters, and an allowance in lieu of fuel.

The shipbuilders at Bristol who have received orders for constructing gun-boats have been directed by Government to hasten their completion; and workmen are now employed upon them night and day.

CAPTAIN H. R. YELVERTON, C.B., of the *Arrogant* steam-frigate, has accepted the command of a divisional fleet of gun-boats, forty in number, for service in the Baltic next year.

ON the 27th ult. a grand review of all the troops in garrison at Malta took place in the presence of the Duke of Newcastle. The next day the *Great Britain* entered the port, having on board two battalions of the Anglo-Swiss Legion, mustering 1320 men. There were also on board thirty tons of winter clothing and forty-five tons of camp equipage.

The *Royal George*, 102, arrived at the Nore on Saturday. On her leaving Kiel sharp frosty weather had set in. She has 300 Coast-guard men on board as part of her crew, who are spoken of very highly by their officers for their general good conduct and efficiency in gunnery and seamanship.

SOME cases of small-pox having manifested themselves during the past week in the garrison at Woolwich, occasioned by the extremely crowded state of the barracks there, the whole of the troops have undergone a special medical examination, and, where necessary, have been vaccinated.

It is in contemplation to make a complete alteration in the management of canteens in barracks on home stations. The rent usually paid by the master of the canteen for a house, together with the monthly charge per ten men, is to be abolished. A board of officers is to assemble every month for the purpose of fixing the prices of such articles as are usually sold in canteens; by which change the canteen will be let, subject to certain rules laid down by the authorities, the soldier being greatly benefited.

The inhabitants of Burr, Lancashire, having last year presented the 88th Regiment (quartered in that town when ordered to the Crimea) with a quantity of warm clothing, with a request that they would return some trophy which the town might preserve as a memento of that gallant corps, Colonel Shirley, who has just come home from the Crimea, has accordingly presented the Corporation with two Russian muskets, a drum, and sword, found in the Redan when the 88th took possession of it on the 9th of September.

A CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM has been issued from the War-office, bearing date Nov. 30, 1855, with reference to the transmission of remittances by soldiers in the Crimea to their friends in England. In the new form, the signature of the officer commanding the company to which the soldier belongs and that of the soldier himself are omitted, and there is added a form of receipt, to be filled up by the paymaster and delivered to the soldier. It is hoped, with these additional facilities, that the men generally will be induced to remit a very considerable proportion of their surplus pay, after discharging the regulated claims upon them for messing and necessaries. Remittances in coin are in future to be discounted as unsafe and (under the new arrangements) unnecessary.

A DETACHMENT of forty-four Poles, including eight officers, sailed on Saturday from Deptford, on board the *Ottawa* steamer, for Turkey, to join the Division of the Cossacks of the Sultan, which is now in the British service, and forming a part of the Turkish Contingent. The Division is commanded by Count Zamoycki. The men, who were seen on board by Captain Szulcowski, agent to the Division, wore military coats, caps, and trousers, exhibited a martial look, and appeared in high spirits at the prospect of soon facing the armies of their most unrelenting tyrant. The present is the fifth transport of Poles from England since the war commenced, thus making a total of 400 Polish volunteers, among whom there were about 200 prisoners taken at Bomarsund. As the steamer was leaving the Deptford Dockyard, several hundred workmen assembled, and gave three cheers for Poland, wishing the Poles speedy success in their undertaking.

A COMMUNICATION just issued from the Quartermaster-General's Office, Horse Guards, states that the directors of the French Railway between Marseilles, Paris, and the north of France, have consented to allow British officers and soldiers on duty, proceeding to or returning from the Crimea, to travel on their lines at the half fare for whatever class they may choose to travel by. Officers for the Crimea availing themselves of this privilege should apply to the Quartermaster-General, at the Horse Guards, for an order to present at the railway stations, to entitle them to travel at the reduced rates. Officers returning from the Crimea should apply to the Commandant at Scutari for an order of a similar nature, to present at Marseilles, Lyons, and Paris. Officers accompanied by soldier servants in uniform can have them conveyed at reduced rates. The great boon thus conferred on officers of the British army proceeding through France, to or from the seat of war, will, it is observed, be highly appreciated.

THE SLOW-POISONING CASE.—This trial, in which Mr. Wooller was indicted for the murder of his wife, which took place at Durham Assizes, was brought to a close on Monday last. Mr. Baron Martin summed up for an acquittal in the most peremptory terms. The last words of his charge to the jury were, "It is for you to say whether you can safely come to the conclusion that the prisoner administered the arsenic. I may observe that, if I were to make a surmise, there is a person upon whom my fancy would rest rather than the prisoner." The jury, after ten minutes' deliberation, gave a verdict of "Not Guilty." After the verdict had been delivered, Mr. Baron Martin observed that he would have interfered at an earlier stage of the trial—that is, he would have stopped the case; but he thought, upon the whole, it would be more satisfactory that it should be fully heard.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

"To my booksellers," as Mr. Pepps would say, "and there did hear mighty good news for poets and men who make books. They do tell me that, in spite of the war, books are looking up; and that Murray, whose father I knew when a boy at the 'Ship in full Sail,' over against the 'Falcon,' in Fleet-street, hath just had a mighty good sale at the Albion, in Aldersgate-street. It seems that the plan is to ask the trade to a dinner, at three, at the Albion, at Staples' (whom I have seen when a boy at the Blue-coat School), and there, when the wine is in and the wit not out, to put up all the new books at a fixed sum—much lower, Mr. Bohn tells me, than that at which they are sold, even to the trade, at any other time. Bohn, who is, I am told, a good German scholar, and much vaunteth thereon (as, indeed, he well may), tells me that he was not there, but that the sale was indeed great, that he sees good times again coming, and that readers, and, what he liketh still better, buyers, are now tenfold what they were in his father Simpkins' time. If this goeth on, I do see great store of roses at Twickenham when the Duke d'Aumale next doth call at Twittenham."

But to drop Mr. Pepps' vein. Murray's annual sale at the Albion was in every respect a success, and argues well for a steady rise in the book-buying market. Educational books were all sold well. This was to be expected. As the necessity of education is felt, good educational books will increase in demand.

Murray's sale is not, however, the only proof of improvement in the book-market. The large and liberal purchases made from Mr. Ingram's stock of books by those leviathans of railway literature, the Messrs. Smith, of the Strand, as well as by other dealers, more than denote a healthy state of things in the Row and Albemarle-street.

The Whigs were always adepts in ensuring success for any play or book in which they felt an interest. How well they ensured the triumphant success of Addison's "Cato"! What ingenious devices they are adopting for the well-sustained reception of Mr. Macaulay's new volumes! A thousand little artifices were introduced to make "Cato" a triumph, and a triumph it was. A like number of artifices are in force to make Mr. Macaulay's History a continuous triumph. We will not pester our readers with the "plants" that were made for Addison's tragedy—but some of the incidents, perhaps unintentionally, made use of for "our forthcoming volumes" deserve description. We know, at least in our own circle, of ten different persons who have been permitted as a great privilege (each of course unknown to the other) to dip into a sheet or two of the great History. We know—as who at a club does not?—of at least three who (under a very little rose) have the first volume of the work, or some sheets of the second, "quietly at home." Nods of approbation—expressions not to be mistaken of delight—proud references to certain passages—bits got by heart—and other allusions indicative of pleasure, and suggestive of pleasures to come, thousands besides ourselves are favoured with in advance of publication.

Mr. Moxon—for twenty years the poets' publisher, as old Moseley was before him (and both wrote poetry)—has nearly deserted the Muses. He is, however, true to Mr. Tennyson, though no longer so to another born-poet, Mr. Browning. The Muses are moving to Farringdon-street. Mr. Routledge—

Strahan, Tinson, Lintot of the times—

is not afraid of poetry, though Mr. Moxon is. The spirited publisher of Sir Edward Lytton's works courts true poets, and is about to publish a new poem by a real poet—by Charles Mackay—who has too long suffered his fine vein of poetry to lie unworked. We shall not, however, have occasion to quarrel with his nearly "five years'" peace if, as we are assured—and from what we have seen, we gather for ourselves—the muse of Mackay has gained in strength of wing, and consequently in height, by the time that he has elapsed between his last work and the good poem (we purposely conceal its name) which is coming from the counter of Mr. Routledge.

If you love Edwin Landseer's engravings, look in on Tuesday and Wednesday evening next, between six and eight in the evening, at Southgate and Barrett's, in Fleet-street. Charles Lewis, the celebrated engraver, has parted with his complete and unmatchable collection of engravings from the works of Landseer, and Messrs. Southgate and Barrett are to scatter them under the hammer on the days we have named. A choicer collection of engravings from the works of any one artist never was sold by public auction—nay, and what is still more wonderful, was never brought together. "Charles," for thus he is commonly called by a large circle of friends, was always a dandy in his prints. How careful he was about his Landseers—how he would weigh, and balance, and doubt, and finally decide right—before he selected his impression! And what a judge he was, and how careful he has been! He always chose the best and he always preserved them with a kind of religious care. Each engraving has its ample margin, and each possesses the gloss of its first appearance. His proof prints are unfingered, and can only be compared to ripe plums upon a south wall with their bloom unfingered even by the tenderest gardener.

The citizens of London are no longer content to abide by Lord Eldon's decision that a school founded more than three centuries ago must necessarily restrict its education to Latin and Greek. The Merchant Taylors are about to extend the circle of sciences taught within the walls of their once famous school. To Latin and Greek they are adding Drawing, and they are actively seeking for a first-rate master for their school. The terms offered are insignificant enough—one hundred pounds a year, but then the hours are not irksome. We shall watch the selection with interest. There are several candidates, and one or two of name, in the field.

We paid a visit the other day to the church of St. Olave, Hart-street, London—the church so frequently mentioned in Pepps' "Diary,"—and recently restored: good service has been done. The monument to Sir John Mennis, the poet and wit, has been brought once more into light (it was half-concealed by woodwork), and the original lettering has been renewed in good taste. We missed the gallery where the Commissioners of the Navy used to sit, and in front of which Mr. Pepps erected the monument to Mrs. Pepps—still in its old locality in the chancel, and suggestive of a thousand associations.

The Manchester people are about to erect a statue to James Watt as a companion to that of Dalton, and are to copy—so we are assured—the statue of Chantrey in Westminster Abbey. We wish we could induce them to change their minds. Chantrey made at least five statues of Watt, and hardly one without some little variation. That in the Abbey is the worst of the five. The best (we speak advisedly) is in the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow, and this should be copied rather than the statue in the Abbey. The son of Watt was a miser in all moods but one—and that respected his father's fame. He was a most liberal contributor to any scheme for the extension of a name that needs no false stays, and every subscription for a statue of Watt was encouraged by his son.

More "Macaulay marvels" reach us as we write. To meet the demand of twenty-five thousand clamorous purchasers, Messrs. Westley and Co., the great binders, have undertaken to supply 3000 copies of a two-volume work every day until the order is completed. Smart work this! Other minutiae are not less marvellous. The 25,000 copies swallow 5000 reams of paper, six tons of milled boards, 7000 yards of cloth, adding (hear this, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer!) £200 sterling to the revenue of the country.

A band of 418 Mormons, Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians, including 124 women and children, have embarked at Gloucester, under the direction of a Norwegian named Peterzen, for Grimby, whence they are to proceed to New York.



THE IMPERIAL HUNT IN THE FOREST OF FONTAINEBLEAU.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE IMPERIAL HUNT IN THE FOREST OF FONTAINEBLEAU.

IN the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS a year since (Dec. 10, 1854) we glanced at the splendid hunting parties given last season by the Emperor in the forest of Fontainebleau, which, under the Imperial sway, has assumed an entirely new air of animation. We also then gave some interesting details of the organisation which the Emperor has given to the service of the chase; the large sum allotted by him for the appointments of the officers of hunting; and the supply and maintenance of horses, dogs, implements, &c. We also then described the hunting costume; and in the large illustration upon the preceding page the dress is not the least striking portion of the scene,—in the three-cornered hats, trimmed with gold lace, and the richly-embroidered suits, and other costly appointments.

The forest of Fontainebleau is twelve leagues in circuit, and contains nearly 35,000 acres; and in its picturesque views, rocks, ravines, valleys, and plains, woods and glades, meadows, lawns, and cliffs, the domain is of almost unrivalled beauty. It formerly abounded with stags, deer, &c., but these were almost exterminated at the Revolution of 1830; nevertheless, it is still a favourite rendezvous for hunting. No forest in France possesses finer trees or a greater variety of indigenous plants. It is intersected with roads radiating in all directions. The locality selected by our Artist for displaying the stateliness of the Imperial Hunt is entitled *La Croix de Grand Veneur*, and marked by a cross at the point where four roads meet. It receives its name from the legend of the spectral black huntsman who was supposed to haunt the forest: it is said he appeared to Henry IV. shortly before his assassination.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

WITH the close of the partridge-shooting season, on Monday, the frost and snow set in with just sufficient intensity to prove a great bar to the other sports of the field; and as strange birds have been sweeping round us, and heralding a hard winter for months past, hunting and coursing meets seem likely to be liable to considerable derangement for some weeks to come. Hence the steeplechase fixtures at Chertsey and Chippenham on Tuesday next have somewhat gloomy prospects. A match between Liverpool and Gay Lad is one of the features of the former meeting; while three steeplechases are proposed for the latter. The coursing meetings which are at present settled for the week are—Hawthorne and Staunton Harold, on Tuesday; Southminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday; Limerick and Hainton, on Wednesday and Thursday; Baldock, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; Market Drayton, on Thursday; and Biggar (O.), on Thursday, &c.

Racing men have little else to do now than to con over the new volumes of "Ruff" and the "Book Calendar." We observe from the former that there were 171 race meetings in Great Britain last season, and that 412 two-year-olds started. From the latter we note that 512 blood colts and 506 fillies have been entered so far in this year's stud-book. Of these, forty-four young Fernbills are the property of Sir Tatton Sykes; and it is rather odd that one of the Cossack colts belongs to the Austrian Government, which seems studiously to have selected this consort for its mare Cembra. Sixty-one out of these 1018 foals died before December 1. We do not observe Crucifix's name among the dams; but Lady Evelyn has a colt to Touchstone, Alice Hawthorne one to the Flying Dutchman, and Ellerdale a little sister to Ellington, by the same horse. Teddington's foals are but few. Grand Inquisitor is put to the stud; and Melbourne is to be at half his old price. "The Squire" has contradicted the report about his change of trainer; but Mr. Elwes has taken Oulton and his other horses away from Danebury, and Mr. T. V. Turner intends to send some of his to Charles Marson at Royston. Nearly half "the Ring" were at Westminster Hall last week to hear the trial of Ignatius Coyle, for whom they have always felt such a morbid sympathy. The Bench and Bar have become as tired of his name as they were of the card-cheating case or Crouch's eternal railway-parcel disputes. Coyle first made himself notorious in the Running Rein trial (1844), and, after sundry other escapades, was convicted of picking pockets in the Goodwood inclosure. Although his appeal against this conviction to the Quarter Sessions was quashed, Lord Palmerston pardoned him. He was then chiefly instrumental in convicting the three brothers Alleyne of a conspiracy to cheat. These gentlemen next obtained a writ of error; and, as there was no joinder to it, they were pardoned, and Coyle in his turn was sentenced to two years for perjury on their trial. A new trial was granted him after he had been four months on the treadmill; and now he is sent back to serve out the remaining twenty. His trotting-match troubles with the American mare Fanny Jenks remind us that ten miles has lately been trotted in waggons over there in 30 min. 29 sec.; the sixth mile of which was done in 3 min. 1 sec.;—very different work to what we can make in England.

We understand that the King of Sardinia was very much pleased at Willenden Paddocks with Pyrrhus the First and his daughter Virago, than whom we possess few finer specimens of English blood stock. An own sister to Virago was born at these paddocks this season, and another of Pyrrhus's colts has been absurdly christened "F. M. the Duke of Duty."

We may here mention that a very seasonable memento of the late Sir Richard Sutton's Quorn dynasty has just been published by the Messrs. Graves. The original picture is by Mr. Frank Grant, R.A., and makes an admirable companion to his "Melton Hunt in the late Lord Suffield's Time," which has now, like his "Ascot Heath Meet," a very melancholy interest, from the fact of so many of his leading sitters being dead. The grouping of this present picture is very effectively managed, and the sixteen figures form a semicircle—Sir Richard (whose portrait we were kindly permitted to copy for our paper some three weeks since) holding the leading position on the right, while his first whip, Ben Morgan, on a somewhat groggy and varmint-looking white horse, is in the centre of the background. The second whip, Jack Morgan, who is busy taking a thorn out of a hound's foot, and Captain Frank Sutton, as he stands talking to his brother Henry, are among the most striking "bits" of the picture, and not far short of the celebrated one of "Lord Forester Bidding the Fire Good Morning in the Melton Breakfast." The Duke of Rutland is on Sir Richard's right, and his horse's head is the best piece of horse-drawing to our minds, in the picture. That venerable Tedworth octogenarian, Mr. Asheton Smith, whose long seat contrasts pleasantly with Sir Richard's short one, is talking to them from the back of his massive white-nosed chestnut. The remaining portraits of note are Colonel Lowther, the Marquis of Granby, Mr. Green of Rolleston, Mr. Richard Sutton, and Captain Charles Sutton, &c. Would that Sir Richard himself had been alive to see the completion of a work in whose progress, while it was in the hard-riding artist's hands, he took no little pleasure!

CONTRABAND OF WAR AT HAMBURG.—It is now several weeks since the British Consul-General here, Colonel Hodges, was instructed by the Government to present to the Senate of Hamburg an energetic note, strongly protesting against the laxity with which the Government of this city observed their so-called neutrality, and the glaring and open manner in which contraband of war (and more especially the articles of sulphur and saltpetre) was sent from here by the Prussian railroad to Russia. Within the last ten days large quantities of these articles have been imported here without any notice being taken of it, or protest raised from any side whatever; and it is no secret here that the purchasers are the agents of St. Petersburg houses, and that the goods have been sent on by railway to Russia. Within the last ten days no less than five cargoes of sulphur and four of saltpetre have been imported, with the certain knowledge that they are sent on to Russia, and converted into gunpowder to be used against us. Within the last few days a large demand has sprung up here for empty sugar-casks, particularly for those from Havannah and the Brazils. These chests are conveyed to the so-called *Theierhof*—a large isolated stack of warehouses used exclusively for warehousing tar, turpentine, sulphur, saltpetre, pitch, and other easily inflammable articles of merchandise—where they are filled with sulphur. As large quantities of Brazil and Havannah sugars are sent every day to Russia by the railroad, it is not irrational to suspect that this sulphur, packed in old sugar-cases, is also intended for transit to Russia—probably to be mixed up with other and similar chests of real sugar, to mask the real nature of the transaction, and satisfy the easy consciences of the Prussian officials.—*Letter from Hamburg, Dec. 6.*

CAPTURE OF A RUSSIAN ISLAND.—Letters from Okasaki, in the island of Japan, dated the 19th September last, state that two French frigates, belonging to the naval expedition sent to the coast of Kamtschatka, took possession, on the 3rd of that month, in the name of the Allied Powers, of the island of Urup, the centre of the Russian trade in the Kuriles archipelago, and captured there a Russian cutter laden with a rich cargo of furs. The Russian name of the island has been changed to that of Alliance. The French frigate *Sibille*, of 50 guns, was allowed to enter Okasaki without any opposition, and was received in the most hospitable manner by the local authorities. A Japanese temple was placed at the disposal of the French Captain for the accommodation of his sick; and two of the seamen having died were interred with all the ceremonies of the Catholic Church, in presence of a spying but evidently well-disposed multitude. Some of the chiefs daily visited the *Sibille*, and readily accepted invitations to breakfast or dine at the table of her Captain, M. de Maisonneuve.

MUSIC.

JENNY LIND has come once more among us, after an absence of six years. She returns a matron, and with a changed name; but though in society she is called Madame Goldschmidt, as an artist she will never go by any other than the honoured name of her maidenhood. It was a question before she arrived whether she would again rouse the old enthusiasm, and doubts were expressed as to this, seeing that, though her powers might be as great as ever, she had abandoned that walk in which, above all others, she was pre-eminent—the opera stage. These doubts, however, did not diminish, but probably rather heightened, the curiosity and interest of the public. From the moment that she (or her agent Mr. Mitchell, of Bond-street) announced two oratorio performances at Exeter Hall, the general excitement became extreme. Notwithstanding the high rates of admission, every ticket was immediately sold; most of them being purchased by muscicellers and others on speculation. Long before the day of the first concert Mr. Mitchell informed all inquirers that he had not a single ticket to dispose of; so that there was nothing for it but to apply to those who had bought them up; and those persons, of course, made the most of their bargains, screwing up the prices of tickets to two or three times their ostensible value. This, we must say, though far from being unprecedented, was wrong. Jenny Lind or Mr. Mitchell may not have actually put money in their own pockets by the transaction, but it was an extortion on the public, and could easily have been prevented. Though the second concert has not yet taken place, no person can obtain an admission to it without yielding to the arbitrary demands of the ticket-holders. One good arrangement, however, has been made: the issue of tickets has been limited to the number that Exeter-hall can conveniently hold; so that on Monday evening last, when the first concert took place, there was no unpleasant crowd or pressure. The oratorio was Haydn's chef-d'œuvre, "The Creation," a work which some critics now-a-days show a disposition to depreciate. Because it is clear, simple, and melodious, it is denied the qualities of depth and grandeur. It is admitted to be beautiful but not allowed to be sublime. We can only judge from our own impressions; and if the choruses, "The marvellous work," "Awake the harp," "The Lord is great," and, above all, "The heavens declare the glory of God," are not sublime, we are ignorant of what constitutes sublimity. The whole work is full of bright and cheering sunshine, and we pity those who can listen to it without being penetrated by the goodness as well as awed by the power of the Creator of all things. Jenny Lind sang in "The Creation" at Exeter Hall before she left England, when she charmed the audience, and showed that she was without a rival in the loftiest branch of her art. On Monday night she maintained her pre-eminence as effectually as ever. She was welcomed with all the honour due to her character, and acknowledged her reception with grace and feeling. When she began to sing she showed considerable agitation. Her voice, for a brief space, was husky and tremulous; but she soon recovered herself, and showed that she was in full possession of all her powers of voice, intellect, and genius. To say that her vocal organ retains all its finest qualities—its sweetness, flexibility, and mellowness of tone—and her execution all its clearness and finish, is to give her the smallest part of the praise which is her due. Others may come near her in those things; but it is in her noble and beautiful simplicity, in her contempt for every frivolous ornament, in her faithful adherence to the text of the composer and the purity with which she renders it, in the grandeur of her conceptions, and the depth of expression which penetrates every heart, that she is unapproachable, and leaves every other competitor far behind. To enumerate the beauties of her performance would be to quote every passage she sang; but the things which most strongly roused the enthusiasm of the audience were the two charming descriptive airs, "With verdure clad the fields appear," and "On mighty peaks the eagle wings his way;" and the enchanting duet between Adam and Eve, "Graceful consort, at thy side," so full of love and happiness. This was rapturously enjoyed; and the fair singer retired amid acclamations from every part of the hall. As a whole, the performance—which was conducted by Mr. Benedict—was satisfactory. The instrumental band and chorus were of sufficient numerical strength, and of respectable quality. The other solo parts (Jenny Lind being the soprano) were sung by Mr. Lockett as tenor, and Mr. Lawler as bass, "The Creation" having no contralto. Both performers acquitted themselves well; though, on the part of both, a little more energy and expression would have been desirable.

On Monday next the second concert is to take place, consisting of Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

MR. ELIA gave his concluding Lecture of this season at the London Institution on Monday evening. This lecture was "On Melody, Harmony, and Counterpoint;" subjects which he treated with much tact and skill, explaining with perspicuity the leading principles of the art, and analysing a number of pieces by the great masters, so as to show the effect of the technical rules of composition in producing musical beauty and effect. These analytical remarks were illustrated by Miss Ramsford, Miss Corelli, Mr. Smythson, and a body of choristers from the Royal Italian Opera, who sang the pieces which came under the lecturer's review. The hall was crowded to the doors, and the audience received the lecture with the warmest expressions of satisfaction.

THE THEATRES, &c.

PRINCESS.—The revival at this theatre, on Thursday evening last, of "Louis the Eleventh," occasioned considerable interest among the public generally, and drew together a fashionable and crowded audience. Those to whom the postponement of "Macbeth" was a disappointment will have found consolation in this revival. The character of *Louis XI.* has been so thoroughly appropriated by Mr. Charles Kean that it must ever be associated with his name. It would be the height of imprudence in any other living exponent of the histrionic art to attempt it; and we apprehend that a very long period must elapse before the English stage will produce a fitting successor to Mr. Kean in this difficult and original part. The transition scenes with which the play abounds, and which give so much scope for our great actor's peculiarities, were performed on Thursday evening with his accustomed power.

MARYLEBONE.—A new and original play, in five acts, was produced on Tuesday. It is from the pen of Mrs. Edward Thomas, and entitled the "Merchant's Daughter, of Toulon." The dialogue of the piece is partly in prose and partly in blank verse. The heroine is one *Hortensia Belamont* (Miss Edith Heraud), who, having been educated in a convent, is at the opening of the play described as paying her first morning calls in Toulon, and, from her beauty and talents, exciting the envy as well as the admiration of the city belles. Two of these, *Agnes* and *Josephine* (Miss Roberts and Miss Ellen Sabine), are particularly affected by her sudden supremacy; for their lovers, *Duval* and *Godfroi* (Mr. Sennett and Mr. Plunkett), give fearful signs of a disposition to desert their old loves in favour of the new. Among her guests, also, is one *Dugard* (Mr. Lyon), an old friend of her father, who, having formerly loved her mother, is particularly struck by her perfect resemblance to the first object of his affection, and feels his long-dormant passion at once revive. Out of this state of *Dugard's* feelings the situations of the play originate. *Dugard* was always of a morose disposition, and, though outwardly a pious man, yet sinister in his dealings, and misanthropical in his sentiments. Accordingly, he plots against *Hortensia's* lovers in order to have the field clear for himself. He contrives that *Duval* and *Godfroi* shall make themselves ridiculous by shaving off their moustaches and wearing yellow for her sake; and in regard to his nephew *Francisco* (Mr. Gaston), her real lover, he pursues him to extremity, forbidding him to visit at Belamont's, and ultimately casting him forth into the streets. Finding all these and other contrivances vain, at last he resorts to direct slander of *Hortensia* herself, the result of which is, that in the first ball to which she is invited with her father she is in the most marked manner cut by all the respectability of Toulon—with which incident, a very striking one, the fourth act closes. *Francisco*, who discredits the calumny, nevertheless remains faithful to her; and her father, though at first staggered, sees reason to believe her guiltless. *Hortensia*, however, will not be satisfied until *Dugard* is compelled to retract his charges; and at length effects such an appeal to his better nature that her clearance is decidedly pronounced by her fashionable acquaintance. There are also two or three underplots, connected with the pages and *soubrettes* of the courtly characters of the drama, which serve to vary the interest, and add humour to the tone of the scenes. This play, which was well acted, proved triumphantly successful. Much of this result was owing to the unusual preponderance of the humorous element; and the new drama would, in fact, be more appropriately denominated a comedy, in the Shakespearean sense of the term. The diction had frequently the ring of the old dramatists, and most of the jests told admirably. Laughter and applause, in fact, divided the evening. The audience were excited to extraordinary enthusiasm. Miss Heraud was recalled at the end of the fourth and fifth acts, and the author had to bow frequently from her private box.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON'S SOIREE MAGIQUES.—Thursday evening being the hundredth night of Professor Anderson's magical performance at the Lyceum Theatre, the event was celebrated by the Wizard in the presence of a numerous audience. Mr. Anderson had selected some of his best and most interesting tricks, including the great gun trick and the exhibiting of table-rapping and spiritual communications, and their exhibition was received by the audience with an interest and rewarded by an applause which are accorded to but few entertainments. That such success should be attained by a hundredth exhibition is a convincing proof of the sterling character of Mr. Anderson's performances, and of the great ability with which he executes the numerous tricks of sleight of hand and optical delusion, of which his entertainment is composed. In the course of the evening a number of statuettes, portraits, and pieces of music were presented to the audience as souvenirs of the occasion; and, shortly before the conclusion, Mr. Anderson read a poetical address, in which he expressed his thanks for the patronage he has received at the Lyceum Theatre, and his regret that he is shortly about to leave it, cheering his numerous friends, however, with the promise that he will meet them on Boxing-night at Covent Garden.

THE WIZARD'S PANTOMIME AT COVENT GARDEN.—After a period of repose from the freaks of *Harlequin*, the fun of *Clown*, the charm of *Columbine*, the attractions of "Mother Goose," and the clever pantomimic efforts of the famous Farley, Covent Garden reopens at Christmas for the production of a magic pantomime, under the management of Mr. Anderson. The pantomime is to be called "The Field of the Cloth of Gold," and will be suggestive of some of the happiest events of our own time, as it will be commemorative of the alliance of England and France in the days of Francis I. and Henry VIII. It will probably be necessary only to mention the names of the artists engaged to give a warranty for the excellency of that which is to be produced. Mr. A. Harris is the inventor, and has had the entire superintendence of the *mise en scène*. His name and inventive powers, well known as they are to the frequenters of the Royal Italian Opera, are sufficient guarantees for his department being unexceptionable. The scenery is by Mr. W. Beverley, the crowned monarch of fairy-land; the music is by Mr. Loder, the composer of the "Night Dancers" and "Nourjahad"—in himself a host. Messrs. G. A. Sala and the Brothers Brough have furnished the wit and humour of the words; not a word more need be said about their part being all that could be wished. The ballet is by the well-known and justly-celebrated Mr. B. Barnett; and the masks, which are entirely novel, and very unlike the pasteboard platitudes common to pantomimes, are by Mr. George Ewing. Finally, Mr. Anderson's magic wand is to be waved over the whole, and will doubtless work wonders far surpassing those of his harlequin. We had almost forgotten that the services of Mr. Flexmore—the most clever of clowns—have been secured for what will, without doubt, be the great pantomime of 1855.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL'S ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ROTUNDA, DUBLIN.—The new entertainment called "Patchwork," recently opened at Dublin by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul, has met with decided success. The performance is partly musical and partly dramatic, and consists of two parts. The first part introduces fourteen characters, male and female, personified by Mrs. Howard Paul (Miss Featherstone), one of our finest English contraltos, and Mr. Howard Paul, well known as a playwright and actor. The second part of the entertainment consists of souvenirs of the Italian, Spanish, German, and French operas, in which Mrs. Howard Paul assumes successively the habiliments and voice of a German basso profundo, a French soprano, a Spanish tenor, and an Italian contralto. "The songs selected by this lady," says a local paper, "were executed in the most brilliant manner, and displayed to advantage the magnificent voice of which it is her good fortune to be the possessor. It is needless to state that they were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, whose satisfaction was manifested by frequent outbursts of applause. Her rendering of "Il Segreto" and "Les Yeux Bleus" in particular was exceedingly beautiful. Mr. Howard Paul's impersonation of an old man of four-score years was also very effective. The room was densely crowded, and presented a brilliant appearance."

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE KING OF SARDINIA AND THE CITY OF LONDON.—The Sardinian Minister has placed in the hands of the Lord Mayor, by order of the King of Sardinia, in consequence of the magnificent reception his Majesty met with from the Corporation of London, a gold snuff-box, mounted with diamonds, as a mark of consideration from his Majesty to his Lordship, and a token of the high gratification experienced by the Royal visitor at the splendid manner in which the whole ceremony was performed, and the enthusiasm which was so warmly exhibited by the citizens of London.

ORIENTAL KINGS MEMBERS OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY.—At the last meeting of the Asiatic Society, the secretary, on behalf of the council, submitted to the meeting the name of the chief King of Siam, and that of his brother and subordinate prince, for election as honorary members of the society. The claim of these royal personages consisted in their protection of the interests of science, and in their own personal attainments. The head King was a proficient in the Pali and Sanscrit languages; and had acquired a considerable acquaintance with Latin and English. The second King is stated by Sir J. Bowring to speak and write English with ease and correctness. Both are astronomers able to take an observation and work an eclipse; and the second King is also a chemist and mechanic. Both have written letters to her Majesty the Queen, in English, which are creditable performances. The head King has entered into a treaty of amity and commerce with this country, which gives Englishmen a right to hold land and to be governed by their own laws in Siam, and grants other valuable privileges—thus opening up to our enterprise a country which has hardly been less shut to us than China itself. Their Majesties were unanimously elected.

DINNER TO SIR CHARLES NAPIER.—On Tuesday night a numerous body of the supporters of Sir C. Napier met at the Bridge-house Hotel, to celebrate his return for the borough of Southwark. Sir C. Napier, in reply to his health, which was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm, made some remarks on the rumours regarding peace. He was persuaded the people of England would carry on the war till they obtained an honourable peace (Hear, hear). What was an honourable peace it was not for him to say, but he thought that they must drive the Russians out of the Crimea before they talked of an honourable peace (Hear, hear). He also thought that Russia, which dragged them into the war, should be made to pay the expenses which it occasioned (Hear, hear). Russia had thirty sail-of-the-line fully manned in the Baltic. Was there no danger to their shores in the proximity of such a fleet? He was of opinion that the reduction of that fleet, and also of the Russian army, should be made one of the conditions of peace, so as to give security to other countries, and especially to Sweden and Denmark.

FIRE AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—On Sunday afternoon considerable alarm prevailed in the immediate vicinity of the Abbey at Westminster, owing to a report that a fire had taken place in the House of Commons. The rumour was strengthened by immense bodies of smoke rising from the northern part of the building. In a very few minutes the West of England engine and firemen attended, and after some time it was found that the fire was confined to one of the flues, but, owing to the timely application of a few pails of water, the fire was extinguished, and no damage was done to the building.

FRENCH NATURALISATION OF FOREIGN-BUILT VESSELS.—The announcement in the letter of the Paris correspondent of the *National Intelligence*, that the French Government has promulgated a decree allowing foreign-built vessels to be naturalised, and acquire all the advantages appertaining to the French flag, attracts much attention amongst our shipping merchants and builders, who generally regard it as one of the most important movements for their interests that has taken place for many years. Notwithstanding the admission of all the material for shipbuilding into France duty free, there is no doubt expressed that our mechanics will still be able to turn out as good, if not superior, vessels as those in the shipyards of France at a less figure, notwithstanding the ten per cent assessment upon them. If this indeed be so, France is so much in want of shipping that I am inclined to think that our yards, which for a long time have been almost deserted, will display an activity fully equal to the days when the wants of the California trade gave them such an impetus.—*National (U.S.) Intelligence.*

WINTER IN THE BALTIC.—It appears, from all accounts, that the winter has set in this year not only unusually early, but also with almost unprecedented severity. Along the whole east coast of the Baltic, and especially in this neighbourhood, the frosts during the past week have been very severe, the thermometer showing at times upwards of 15 deg. (Réaumur); in fact, such an intense cold in the month of December has not been experienced in Dantzic since the year 1812. Our river is already frozen up, although the harbour still remains open. In the former, however, several vessels are lying which have not yet received all their cargoes; and, should this frost continue, it is to be feared that some of them will be compelled to wait until next spring before they can either finish loading or leave the port. Since writing the above, I am informed that workmen have been engaged, at an enormous cost, to cut a passage through the ice, in order that those vessels which are nearly ready for sea may be brought down the river into the harbour, which, as I said before, still remains open.—*Letter from Dantzic.*

Memorabilia, LITERARY, ANTIQUARIAN, SCIENTIFIC, AND ARTISTIC.

"A little chink may let in much light."—OLD PROVERB

ANCIENT BALLAD.—The following old ballad, and the curious cut which accompanies it—the former, unfortunately, too coarse for complete republication—are taken from a black-letter copy in the rich and varied collection of Mr. Halliwell, St. Mary's-place, Brompton; a collection numbering about 450 ballads, entirely in the black letter, obtained at great cost, and which, though not comprising so many of the very ancient ones as are to be found in the remarkable collection of Mr. Daniel, is believed to be the most extensive of any in private hands:—

"The Man in the Moon drinks Claret" is the second part of the well-known ballad of "Old Mad Tom," printed in Percy's "Reliques." Heber conjectured that its author was the celebrated Tom D'Urfey; but it is certainly older, having been sung at the Curtain Theatre, Shoreditch, before the year 1610. Old Isaac Walton, in his delightful "Angler" (1653), says:—"I'll promise you I'll sing a song that was lately made at my request by Mr. William Basse, one that made the choice songs of 'The Hunter in his Career' and 'Tom of Bedlam,' and many others of note." If Walton here alludes to "Old Mad Tom," as Percy supposed, we get at the real name of the author; but the matter is somewhat doubtful, as we have several other ballads of "Mad Tom" possessing an equal claim to the Waltonian notice.

William Basse was a famous poet in his time; and Anthony Wood states that he was of Moreton, near Thame, in Oxfordshire, and was some time a retainer of Lord Wenman of Thame-park. He was the author of a poem called "The Sword and Buckler," 1602; a poem on the "Death of Prince Henry, 1613; of verses "On Mr. William Shakespeare, who died in April, 1616, &c." His song of "The Hunter in his Career" is preserved in "Wit and Drollery, Jovial Poems," 1682; and in the celebrated "Collection of Old Ballads," printed in 1725. The music is preserved in the Skene MS. in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.

Both parts of the ballad were sung to the tune of "Gray's Inn Maske," which may be found in "The English Dancing Master," 1650, and in several of the later editions of the same work. The authorship has long been a matter of contention. Henry Lawes and Purcell dispute the palm, but neither have the least claim to it. It was composed by John Cooper better known under his Italian cognomen of Giovanni Coperario.



The Man in the Moon drinks Claret.

As it was lately sung at The Curtain, Holwell.

Bacchus, the father of Drunken nobles,
Full mazers, beakers, glasses, bowls,
Grease flapdragons, flamish upsefries,
With healths stab'd in arms upon naked knees.

Rich wine is good:

It heats the blood,
It makes an old man lusty,
The young to brawle,
And drawers up call
Before being too much musty.

Such gambles, such tricks, such figaries,
We fetch, though we touch no Canaries;
French wine till the welkin roares;
And cry out a plague of your scores.

There is no sound
The ears can wound
As lids of wine-pots clinking;
There's no such sport when, all amoret,
Men cry let's fall to drinking.

Our man in the moon drinks claret,
With powder beef, turnep, and carrot;
If he doth so, why should not you
Drink wine until the sky looks blew?

Hey for a turn thus above ground, hey!
O my noddle too heavy doth way!

Metheglin, perry, syder nor strong ale,
Are half so heavy, be they nere so stale.
Wine in our bodies can never rumble,
Down now and then though it makes
us stumble;
Yet scrambling up, a drunkard feels no
pain,
But cries,—sirra, boy, tother pottle
again!

We can drink no more unless we have
full pipes of Trinidad.
Give us the best, it keeps our brains
More warm than can friezado.
It makes us sing,
And cry, hey jing,
And laugh when pipes lie broken.
For which to pay,
At going away,
We scorn a mustard token.

If, then, you do love my oast claret,
Eat powder beef, turnep, and carrot,
Come agen and agen,
And still welcome, gentlemen.

QUERIES

WHAT was the origin and value of the coin called a "Tester" or "Teston"? and was it of silver? In Heywood's "Epigrams" (1560) is the following:—"Of read Testons:

These testons looke read. How lyke you the same?
Tys a token of grace—they blush for shame."

What is meant by red testons? And what cause had this coin to blush in 1560?—L. L. D.

BEES.—In the Island of Jersey it is customary when the head of a family dies to put a bit of crape on the top of the hive: should this be forgotten, the bees in the course of a day or two desert the hive. My mother has told me that when her grandfather died, about the year 1818 or 1819, they forgot the crape, and the bees evacuated the hive; but when her grandmother, some ten years later, departed this life, the crape was placed on the top of the hive, and the bees, by their stay, acknowledged the new master. No reason has ever been assigned by the old witch-believing crones of Jersey for the desertion or fidelity of the bees. I have questioned several, and the answer invariably is, "Elles savent quand leur maitre meurt." Mais comment? I ask. "Le chien sait quand son maitre meurt, comme aussi les abeilles. Je ne sais pas pourquoi elles s'en vont, mais je crois que les sorciers ont quelque chose à y faire."—CELIA YOUNG, Jersey.

THE SANCROFT MEDALS.—Can you, or any of your Correspondents, inform me if these are common, who caused them to be struck, if they are valuable, and any circumstances attending them? I have one dated 1688, with a figure of the Archbishop of Canterbury on one side, and on the other the following Bishops: viz. St. Asaph, Ely, Chichester, London, Bath and Wells, Peterboro', Bristol. Why is the Bishop of London included, and placed in the centre?—D.

Will any one inform me of the derivation of "Gar sel," the Yorkshire vernacular for underwood? Also of "bow rake" and "pale dyke"?—Your obedient servant, VENATOR.

In the diary of Ralph Thoresby, the historian of Leeds, occurs the following passage:—"Noy. 4th, 1701. Was to show the two Archdeacons (Nicholson of Carlisle and his cousin Pearson) our remarkable cloth-market: treated all three after the old manner at a bridge and shot for 6d." Query—What sort of a "treat" was it?—B. WILSON, jun., Bramley, Leeds.

In an old volume, the titlepage of which is lost, I find the following "three things which are accounted very strange, or rather miraculous, in the country of Scotland":—1. The Lake of Milton, part of whose waters do congeal in winter, part of them not. 2. The Lake of Lenox, twenty-four miles round, in which are thirty islands, one of which is driven to and fro in every tempest. 3. The Deaf-Stone, twelve foot high, and thirty-three cubits thick, of this rare quality—that a musket shot off on the one side cannot be heard by a man standing on the other." What are the facts?—DAVID WALKINSHAW, Colford, Gloucestershire.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. MACGILLIVRAY.—It is not a medal, but a medallion—medals have two sides, medallions one. The metal is probably pure tin as that retains a brilliant surface for years, while pewter soon becomes dull. This medallion is commemorative of the campaign 1779 in the American War, in which year a fort called Stony Point (on the Hudson, sixty miles from New York) was captured by the English under Admiral Gambier and Sir H. Clinton. The translation is "Fortis, Marshes, Enclaves, conquered. Stony Point assaulted, 15th July, 1779."

M. PLYMOUTH, JUVENIS, A CURATE.—Answers to such questions may be obtained from a Dictionary.

A SUBSCRIBER.—They are not believed to be Shakespeare's.

W. HARRISON.—"Popular Music of the Olden Time" is published by Cramer, Beale, and Co., of Regent-street.

P. A. S.—You will find the word, not in Lydgate, we believe, but in the very curious old work, "A Dialogue Containing the Number in Effect of all the Proverbs in the English tongue compact in a matter concerninge two manner of marriages," made by John Heywood, 1566:—

"And very fat fed, said this febrerget."—Signor. B. 4.

In the same you will meet with two other expressions very similar to two you mention:—

"He is a Knucklybonyard, and verale meeke
To matche a mynion nother fayre nor sweete."

And—
"Had you some husbende and snape at him thus,
I wys he would geve you a recumbentibus."

M. N.—See Black's Catalogue of the Ashmole Library, p. 21; see also Halliwell's "MSS. Rarities of Cambridge," p. 33.

W. Wood, J. Adams, W. S. K., W. D., Long Ditton, C. S. B., Jas. A., G. Rattall, I. L. K., an Antiquary, Delta, A. S. H., P. R. S., A. Lover of Ancient Customs, W. Metcalf, Spynx, E. G. Finchley, W. Colleson, Porson, F. H. P., Scarboro', A. Y., L. W., F. P. C., A. Native, W. S. W., A. Country Curate, E. Clomer, C. A. Reader, Dublin; Beta, John Millard, W. H. A., Cantab. I. M. M., Clericus, F. de U. C. C. W., Tipton; J. Cathcart, Newark, Ariel, A. Subscriber ab-initio, O. T. Dobbin, M. D., J. K., Augusta de la Tour, P. F., Davis, N. T. E. N., S. Taylor, C. M. Ingley, B. B., J. A. Leek, B. Wildon, R. Gomer—received with thanks.

CHESS.

** Our customary answers to Correspondents are unavoidably deferred.

MATCH BY CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

Second and Final Game between the Oxford Hermes Chess-club and the Trinity College, Cambridge, Chess-club.
(Evans' Gambit.)

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
(Trin. Coll., Cam.)	(Oxford Hermes)	(Trin. Coll., Cam.)	(Oxford Hermes.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	21. Q R to Q sq	Kt to Q B 4th
2. K Kt to K B 3rd	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	22. Kt to K Kt 3rd	Q R to K sq
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	23. Kt to K R 5th	Kt to K 5th (c)
4. Castles	P to Q 3rd	24. P to K R 3rd	R to K Kt 4th
5. P to Q Kt 4th	B takes Q Kt P	25. P to K Kt 4th	Q R to K Kt sq
6. P to Q B 3rd	B to Q B 4th	26. B to Q B 2nd	B to Q R 4th
7. P to Q 4th	P takes Q P	27. B takes Kt	Q takes B (ch)
8. Q B P takes P	B to Q Kt 3rd	28. P to K B 3rd	Q to K 2nd
9. Q B to Q Kt 2nd	K Kt to K B 3rd	29. Kt to K Kt 3rd (d)	R to Q B sq
10. P to Q 5th	Kt to K 2nd	30. Kt to K 4th	R to K Kt 2nd
11. B takes K Kt	K Kt P takes B	31. R to Q 3rd (e)	P to Q R 3rd
12. Kt to Q 4th (a)	Castles	32. Q takes K B P	Q takes Q
13. Kt to Q B 3rd (b)	Kt to K Kt 3rd	33. Kt takes Q	B to Q Kt 5th
14. Kt to K B 5th	B takes Kt	34. K R to Q Kt sq	B to Q B 4th
15. P takes B	Kt to K 4th	35. K R takes P	B to Q Kt 3rd
16. B to Q Kt 3rd	K to R sq	36. Q R to Q B 3rd	R to Q sq
17. Kt to K 4th	R to K Kt sq	37. Q R to Q B 4th	P to Q R 4th
18. Q to K R 5th	Q to K 2nd	38. Q R takes P	B takes R
19. K to R sq	Kt to Q 6th	39. R takes B	
20. Q to K R 4th	R to K Kt 2nd		

(a) The attack and defence are both conducted *secundum artem*, and show the combatants to be well up in their books.

(b) There is an admirable example of the present mode of conducting the Evans' opening played between Horwitz and Kiskersky, at page 128 of the "Chess-Player's Handbook," which we recommend the student to compare with the game before us.

(c) A good retreat. If White, in answer to it, had snatched at the Rook, the game would probably have gone on thus:—

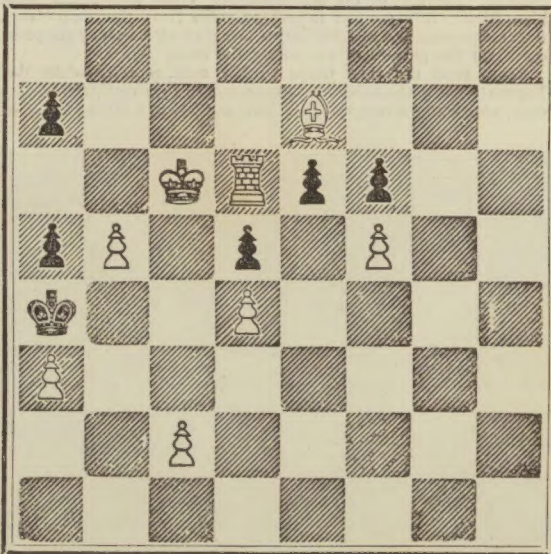
24. Kt takes R Kt takes P (ch)
25. Q takes Kt B takes Q
26. Kt takes R B to K R 5th

And Black have the better game.

(d) Well played. Black have now a very unenviable and up-hill battle to fight.
(e) Taking the K B P with the Kt would not have been prudent.
(f) Because one of their Rooks is hopelessly locked up, and it is impossible for them, with the other alone, to preserve both the Q and the Q R Pawn.

PROBLEM No. 617.

By an AMERICAN AMATEUR.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play, and mate in four moves.

TRIAL OF THE BIBLE-BURNERS.—The prosecution at the suit of the Crown for Bible-burning at Kingstown was brought to a close on Saturday, when the jury, after being three quarters of an hour in deliberation, acquitted Father Petherine. This announcement was received with the most vociferous applause, which was taken up by the crowds assembled outside, who loudly cheered, and interspersed their exclamations of delight with repeated groans for the Attorney-General and her Majesty's law officers. The jury was composed of five Protestants and seven Roman Catholics, the foreman being a member of the Established Church.

MESSRS. STRAHAN, PAUL, AND CO.'S BANKRUPTCY.—The adjourned examination in the bankruptcy of Strahan, Paul, and Co. took place on Tuesday. The prisoners were in attendance, but were not brought into court; and the presentation of a report on the state of their affairs, together with a balance-sheet prepared by the accountant, constituted the principal proceeding. According to this document, which commences with some interesting particulars of the origin of the bank, the respective members of the firm may be considered to have been perfectly solvent as recently as four years back. At that period—namely, December, 1851—the books show an admitted deficiency of £65,542, which was increased to £110,000 by an advance on the Mostyn colliery, but unincumbered property was possessed by Mr. Strahan worth £100,000, and by Sir John Paul worth £30,000. It was not until 1852 that their connection with the Gandells commenced, and the advances made to those people to carry out their railway and drainage schemes in France and Italy were undertaken for no other profit than a half per cent commission on all payments made, and the expectation of recovering a debt of £1800 which had been considered bad. They were rapidly, however, drawn into the common and fatal course of increasing their loans in order to avoid the necessity of facing the loss already incurred, until, after their credit had been pledged in every possible way, their private property sold, and their customers plundered, they found the amount to have increased to nearly half a million sterling. The actual deficiency of the bank is stated at £652,593, and of this sum £483,000 is involved in the transactions with the Gandells and the Mostyn colliery. The estimated assets are placed at £127,670, and if these should be realised a distribution may be hoped of nearly 4s. in the pound. After the reading of the report an adjournment took place to the 11th of March.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB SHOW.

It would be mere affectation to attempt to say anything special about this last Smithfield Club Show, the fifty-eighth which has been held since Mr. Arthur Young proposed the formation of such a society at Woburn. The first was held at Golders'-yard, in Goswell-street, close to now-deserted Smithfield, in 1798, where it continued until it outgrew its original dimensions. At the present day we have no doubt that the art of breeding and feeding for the market has been brought to perfection. The annual competition keeps the feeders—who are no longer mere graziers, but rather manure-manufacturers—up to the mark, and occasionally brings into notice some new article of food—as, for instance, "Barber's cotton-oil cake," manufactured in America from the seeds of the cotton-pod, which was highly spoken of by competent authorities at the November meeting of the Central Farmers' Club. But for the rest, the Cattle Shows of the Smithfield Club for the last five or six years have been as like each other as peas. The same regular set breeds—Devons, Shorthorns, Herefords, in strong numbers; a few Highlands, and an irregular entry of cross-breeds. The extra £20 has brought some Welsh this year—a breed which, in our opinion, would be best crossed away by Highlanders or Devons. These three are shown every year by nearly the same men. Sometimes a shorthorn comes from a distant county; sometimes a nobleman tries a curious cross; but, in cattle, four out of five of the principal exhibitors may be named very safely beforehand. In Sheep the last twenty years have produced an increase in the large cross-breeds of the Southdown variety and in the Cotswolds. The Down-Cotswolds have been made almost a distinct breed. The Shropshire-Downs have shared in the improvement. In Pigs the diffusion of prime bacon seems universal. The Poultry Show tried once was a failure, and is left to Birmingham, where such things do succeed better. As for the Implement Show, it is no exhibition, but the greatest shop of the kind in the world. It seems to become more and more the custom for farmers to examine or read the reports of the Royal Agricultural Show in the summer, and then take advantage of the railways to visit town, and give their orders in Baker-street at Christmas. Indeed this implement department has grown so great that it promises to surround and almost bury the live exhibition.

In order to do full justice to the Illustrations, they will be reserved to appear with those of the Birmingham Show, which, unfortunately, occurs at the same time as the Smithfield. We are glad to learn, on authority, that this injurious competition of the two meetings will not occur again.

The Show is under an average in numbers, but a fair average in quality. The following summary may be useful:—

Seventeen Devons are shown. The Earl of Leicester takes the first prize for the best steer, not exceeding three years old; and his Royal Highness Prince Albert the second prize.

Lady Elizabeth Louisa Reynell, of Avisford House, near Arundel, Sussex, has the first prize for a Devon ox, over four years and ten months old; and Prince Albert the second prize.

John Tucker has the prize heifer, and the Prince again the first prize for fat Devon cows. Twenty Herefords are shown. Niblett, of the White Lion, Bristol, farmer and foxhunter, has the first prize in Class V. Longman, of Affordton, near Ludlow, the second. Niblett always has a prize. In Class VI., Mr. Heath, near Norwich, has the first prize for an ox bred near Ludlow; and Prince Albert the second for an ox bred by J. Stephens, of Hay, Brecon. John Phillips, of Ardington, carries off the one prize for Hereford heifers, and the second for cows: John Gurney, of Catton Hall, has the first. Forty shorthorns appear as representatives of the beef for the million. F. Holmes, of Brook Hall, near Norwich, first prize for steers; F. Robinson, of Widmerpool, near Nottingham, the second—both bred by exhibitors. In oxen the Marquis of Exeter takes the first prize and the gold medal for the best beast in the yard for a three-year and ten months animal bred by him; and Thomas Martin the second. W. Aldworth, near Abingdon, has the first prize, and C. P. Duffield, of Marcham Park, near Abingdon, the second prize for heifers. The Prince was an unsuccessful competitor in the shorthorn classes. Henry Ambler, of Watkinson Hall, near Halifax, has the first prize and gold medal for the best cow in the yard—a white one. In the Scotch and Irish steers or oxen there was a very poor show. The prize was taken by a yellow-poll Angus, fed by John Grove, of Ferne, near Salisbury.

In the new class for Welsh, Colonel Pennant, of Penrhyn Castle, has £20 for a black ox, nearly six years old; and Sir Richard Bulkeley the second prize. Messrs. Neame have £10 for a very nice Sussex ox: only two of this breed exhibited. In the cross-breeds a handsome heifer, between shorthorn and Hereford, carried off £10. Poor show of extra stock. In sheep there were twenty-six entries of long-woolled, and the gold medal was won by R. L. Bradshaw, of Burley-on-the-Hill, Rutlandshire, with a pen of 21 months improved Leicester wethers. In cross-breeds of long and short woolled there were, including extra stock, twenty-eight entries; the first prize going to John Overman, of Burnham Sutton, Norfolk, for his pen of 20 months Downs and Leicesters. Charles Howard, near Bedford, the silver medal in extra stock for his Down and Cotswold wether.

In Short-Woolled Breeds there were fifty entries. Mr. William Rigden, of Hove, near Brighton, the celebrated high farmer, won the gold medal with his 20 months and 2 weeks Southdown wether, got by Jonas Webb's tup that carried a first prize as a yearling at the Windsor Agricultural Show in the year of the Great Exhibition. The Duke of Richmond had a first prize for his 32 months pen of wethers, bred by himself.

In Pigs there were twenty-eight entries. John Coate, of Hammoon, near Blandford, has the gold medal for his black 24 weeks old improved Dorset small breed; Prince Albert a second prize for white 22 weeks old, bred by himself. The Prince has also a first prize and Mr. Coate a second for the two breeds of pigs above 26 weeks old. No. 245 is an extraordinary pig, as big as a donkey, as heavy as one of the Devon prizes, in fine condition. Commended. But 4½ years old.

To say more on this Show would be like reviewing "Virginus," or any other stock play.

The Implement Display is too crowded for examination. The handsome plate presented to the deservedly-popular honorary secretary of the Club was exhibited in the Cattle Division. It is very fairly executed, but the artist had not fair play: the committee, who understand Stock better than Art, did not give the modeller as many hours as it requires days to fatten a pig.

Next week we shall give our Illustrations of the Prize Stock, with some remarks.

AMERICAN PRIVATEERING.—The story which obtained currency in England and France regarding the fitting out of a Russian privateer in New York referred to the barque *Maury*, which was seized by the British Consul on the plea of having on board articles contraband of war, and which was subsequently discharged and known to be no privateer at all. The English and French press do not seem to have been properly posted on the subject of privateering. It is a settled and recognised law of nations that unless two-thirds of the crew of a vessel fitted out for a privateer are natives or subjects of the belligerent party under whose flag she sails she is not legally a privateer, but a pirate, and may be treated accordingly. Hence, when we commenced the war with Mexico, we gave public notice that all privateers sailing under the Mexican flag, unless two-thirds of the persons on board were citizens of Mexico, would be treated as pirates. Under this view of the case it will be seen that, even were the Americans disposed to fit out privateers under the Russian flag, it would be impossible to man them with Russian sailors. In all New York, indeed in the whole country, it is believed that not enough Russian sailors could be found to man a single vessel. Had the English papers fully comprehended the nature of the case they would not have exposed themselves to ridicule by giving currency to such an absurd rumour.—New York Herald.

CACAO.

THE Cacao-tree, or, as it is commonly called, Cocoa, may be considered as one of the most interesting productions of the West Indies which have become articles of general consumption. The accompanying Illustrations of the culture and manufacture of the valuable staple to the breakfast-table have been sketched by a Correspondent resident in the West Indies; and to his many opportunities for observation we are indebted for the descriptive details.

The scene is taken from a large cocoa estate in the island of Grenada, called Pleasant. Its owner has made unceasing efforts to improve the moral and physical condition of the working classes (located on his own and neighbouring estates), by the introduction of a new system of labour, tending to promote equality of confidence between the employer and employed. The estate is chiefly devoted to the cultivation of cocoa and coffee, which are generally grown together. It extends over a considerable tract of land forming the sloping sides of a lofty mountain known as Mount St. Katherine, whose dark outline, covered with dense forest to the very summit, forms a striking contrast to the bright and golden foliage of the cocoa. A long and wide road runs through the centre of the plantation, from which various paths and tracks diverge, leading to and dividing the allotments. These are in many parts bounded by rows of lofty evergreen trees, which are planted for the purpose of sheltering the cocoa and coffee from the wind, which is very detrimental. In the island of Trinidad a very beautiful tree, called the "Boia

THE CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURE OF COCOA.



COCOA PLANTATION IN THE ISLAND OF GRENADA, FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.

Immortal," bearing a brilliant scarlet blossom, is common, and during the season its bloom presents from a distance, when the sun is shining on it, a most splendid and novel appearance.

The cocoa-trees are planted in rows, like apple-trees in an orchard, and the coffee-trees between them. Great care is necessary to keep the young trees free from the quantity of small climbing parasitic plants and mosses which in those climate accumulate upon them to a vast extent, and ultimately destroy them. If attention be paid to this point, and the soil prove fertile, the trees commence bearing in less than three years.

Very few things can surpass in beauty the effect of a cocoa plantation when the trees are loaded with fruit.

Our Correspondent thus describes his visit to the above plantation:—Our road lay by a narrow path, shaded by magnificent plantains and bananas, whose gigantic leaves—from twelve to fourteen feet long and nearly three feet broad—formed over our heads a beautiful canopy. Here and there from amidst the mass rose the towering stem of a mountain cabbage-tree, waving its proud crest of dark green branches. Near the roots of these a small and neatly-cut channel conveyed a stream of water to supply the mill.

The bank was covered with every variety of plant; beautiful specimens of light feathery ferns bounded the other side; and swarms of vivid-coloured butterflies and buzzing insects darted to and fro in undisturbed enjoyment. This path soon led into the heart of the plantation, and nothing could be more beautiful than the view which broke upon us. An immense bower, extending as far as the eye could reach, appeared spread above us; and the long vistas formed by the numerous lines of trees were only broken here and there by the large leaves of some straggling plantain, or mass of

broken rock clothed with lichens and mosses. The rays of the sun, as they shot through the rich foliage, fell in subdued light on the clusters of fruit with which each tree was loaded, adding to their varied tints of purple, red, and gold a brilliancy that gave the scene an air of enchantment, and forcibly reminded me of the Garden of the Genii in the story of Aladdin.

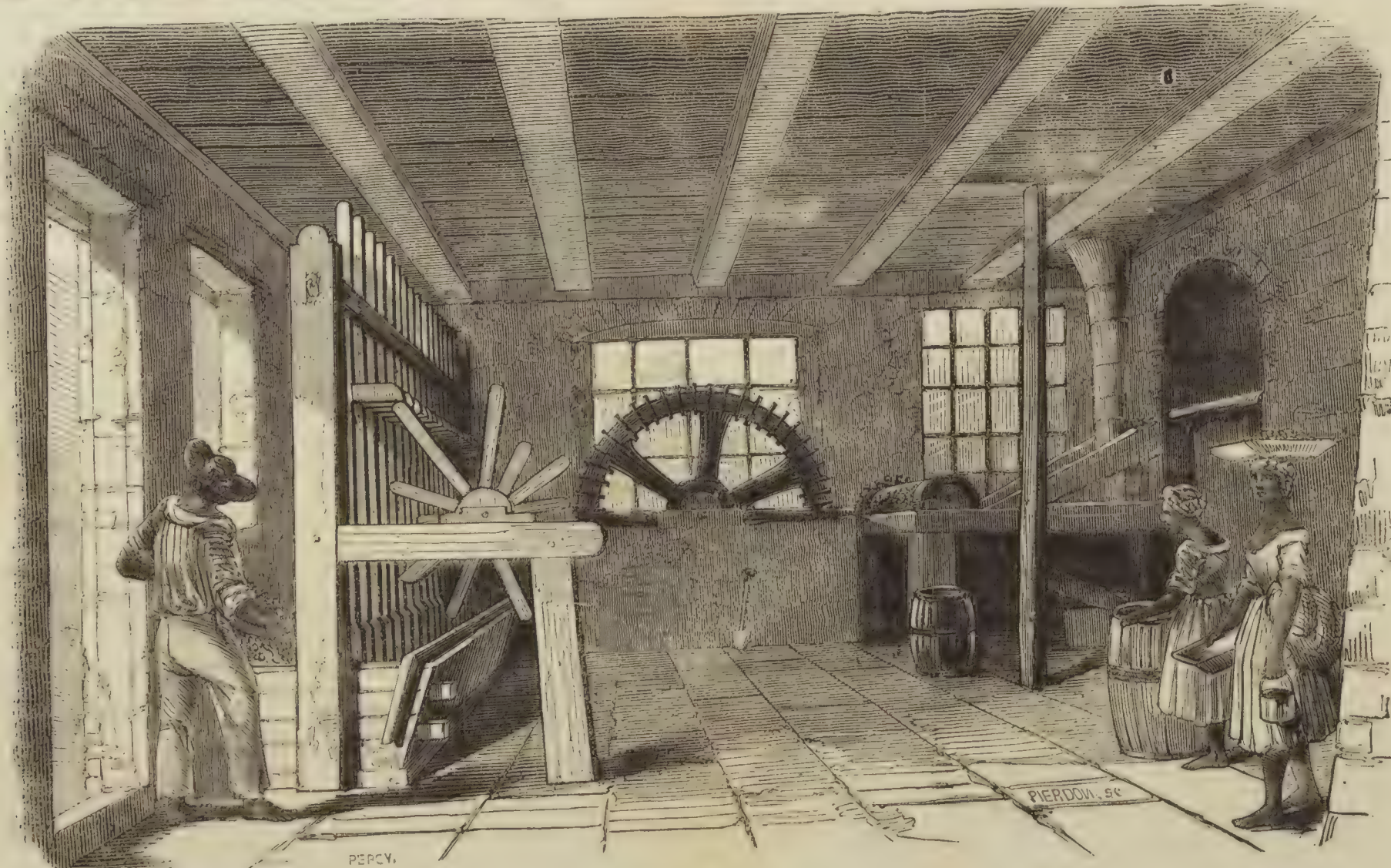
The cocoa as sent to England for consumption is known as a brown seed or kernel, something like an almond, but usually larger. The kernels are contained in a pod, and vary in number from ten, twenty, and thirty in each. The pod, which somewhat resembles a cucumber in shape, is composed of a thick fleshy substance, which hardens into a shell if dried, but which when the fruit is fit for gathering is soft, and easily broken. It hangs to the tree by a short stem, and usually grows in a manner so different from the European fruits (but not uncommon to many tropical ones) that it excites the surprise of a stranger. Instead of hanging from the tender twigs and branches, and intermixed with the foliage, it is generally seen growing out of the most solid parts of the stem and branches, particularly in clusters around the main trunk of the tree, and frequently within a foot or two of the root—conveying the idea of its being hung there by some artificial means rather than by its own natural growth. The first of the accompanying Views shows the interior of a plantation. A negro girl is picking coffee from the small trees between the cocoa-trees; and another girl is breaking with a stone the pods of some cocoa, for the purpose of extracting the seeds.

These seeds are then taken to the mill, represented in the second Engraving, and the outer husks are removed by a machine shown near the door, with a negro supplying it. This consists of a strong frame of timber

firmly fixed to the floor, supporting a line of movable bars of wood placed perpendicularly, which, being lifted by means of arms attached to a roller, and alternately catching under a projecting pellett in each bar, causes it to fall in the manner of a pestle upon the cocoa placed in the trough below.

On the opposite side of the apartment is a small roller which is armed with a grater, by which the outer husks of the coffee-berry are removed. A sloping trough, fed by a long bag affixed to a hole in the floor above, conveys the coffee to the roller, which passes by another trough into vessels preparatory to its being dried.

Great care is required in drying the cocoa prior to its being packed; otherwise it "heats," becomes mildewed, and unfit for use. The ordinary way is to spread it out on canvas sheets or skins, and expose it to the sun, continually turning it, that all parts may be equally dried. This method is attended with considerable trouble, and of course is only adopted by those whose means will not admit of more costly apparatus. The building employed for the purpose is called a bocan: it is generally built in an airy situation, so as to obtain a thorough ventilation. The apartments are very lofty, and separated by strong and open lathwork. The upper floor is generally used for the coffee, and the lower for the cocoa. The latter is furnished with large shallow trays, raised a few inches from the floor by small wheels, which enable them to be removed and passed through apertures (made for the purpose in the external wall) on to a platform, which runs the whole length of the building, and in such a position as to prevent the greatest exposure to the sun during the whole day. By means of these trays the cocoa is easily removed or wheeled back into the interior of the



COCOA-MILL IN GRENADA

PLATE FOR THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY.

AMONG the beneficial encouragement of Art which resulted from the Great Exhibition of 1851 was the commissioning, by persons of wealth and high station, of several artists to produce works in fitting commemoration of the great event. In this laudable spirit the Goldsmiths' Company resolved to devote a large sum from their treasury to the production of such a specimen of the artistic skill of British design and working in metal as should be worthy of emanation from a Guild under whose special protection this branch of art may be said to be placed. Their object was specially to test the state of art as applied to silver-manufacture; and with this view the Company decided upon a group of plate, to be open to the competition of all the trade, in which Messrs. Hunt and Roskell were successful. The whole was designed and modelled by Mr. Alfred Brown; it is, altogether, a masterly work, strongly reminding us of the best age of the art. We have engraved the several pieces.

There are two Candelabra for ten lights each. The figures on the first represent Benvenuto Cellini, George Heriot, and Sir Martin Bowes: each statue is attended by a figure of Genius, bearing emblems of the craft. On the base are the arms of the Company.

In the opposite Candelabrum, the group represents Michael Angelo in the Studio of his Master, Domenico Ghirlandaio, sketching a lady who is fitting on one of the garlands from the fabrication of which Corradi, Ghirlandaio's father, derived his name. Lorenzo de Medici, the great



BENVENUTO CELLINI.

building in case of rain, which—as most cocoa estates are in mountainous districts—is of frequent occurrence, and falls in very sudden and heavy showers. It is, I believe, well known that from the cocoa, when properly pounded, refined, and prepared, chocolate is made.

The coffee-berry is so well known that it is needless to enter into any lengthened description of it. The tree is an elegant shrub, with a light-coloured bark, very rough in appearance; its leaves are small, and of a beautiful dark glossy green: and the flower, which is a most delicate little white star with numerous anthers, not unlike the blossom of the myrtle, is closely clustered around the long and slender branches, and forms a beautiful contrast to the dark leaves with which it is intermixed.

The wood of the coffee-tree very closely resembles box, and is extremely hard; but, as it seldom grows to any great extent, is not turned to account. The berry, when ripe, is a deep purple colour, rather larger than a sloe, and consists of a pulpy substance, in which is contained the seed, or coffee of commerce.

The proper method of cultivating is to keep the trees from growing too high, by continually pruning the tops and allowing the lower branches to spread; to plant in a moist and shady situation; being very particular to protect it from the wind, and to keep the trees very clear at the roots from weeds. It is usually propagated from seed.



BENEVOLENCE.



GRANTING THE CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

patron of art, and Michael Angelo's friend, is inspecting some works handed to him by a page. On the base are the arms of the Company.

The subject of the large candelabrum represents the Granting of the Charter of Incorporation to the Goldsmiths' Company, by Richard II., A.D. 1392. The King is delivering the Charter into the hand of the Prime Warden. A warden kneels in front of the throne with specimens of the craft. Thomas d'Arundel, who was Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury, stands on the right of the King. The Queen, Ann of Bohemia, is seated on his left. An attendant bears plate, a present to the King. William Stonden, Mayor of London, is present with the insignia of his office. The Chamberlain, and pages playing with a greyhound, complete the group. On the base are the arms of the Company. The groups represent the processes of mining, refining, and working the precious metals. The style of the ornament is Italian, of the cinque cento period.



MICHAEL ANGELO (GHIRLANDAIO'S STUDY).

Next is a group illustrating the benevolence of the Goldsmiths' Company. On the summit is a figure of Prudence, and by her side Benevolence is distributing to the necessitous from the horn of plenty. The figures underneath display the varied benefits conferred. On the left are the scholar and his tutor; in front is a sick man; on the right are the widow and her fatherless children, and the reduced and enfeebled artisan about to lay aside his implements of trade, all sustained and relieved by the Goldsmiths' Company. On the pedestal are medallions of Edward III., Henry VII., and James I.; and at the angles the arms and supporters of the Company.

The last group represents the Business Duties of the Goldsmiths' Company. On the summit is the figure of Science; her hand, resting on a crucible, points to the law, upheld by Justice, for the regulation of the standard of the precious metals. On the left stands Industry, with various articles of plate, a beehive, an anvil, and other implements of labour. Underneath, on one side, Mercury represents Commerce, supporting Prosperity with the horn of plenty; and on the other side is Plutus, the God of Wealth. On the pedestal are medallions of Edward III., Henry VII., and James I.; and at the angles the arms and supporters of the Company.



BUSINESS DUTIES.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

In reference to the rumour that the Prince of Wales is to enter at Oxford University, the *Oxford Chronicle* states that apartments are in course of preparation for his Royal Highness at Christchurch.

Preparations are in progress at Turin to celebrate the return of the King of Sardinia to his dominions. Trophies of flowers, to be illuminated by gas and other ornaments, are being erected on the Piazza Carlo Felice.

Marie Amelie, ex-Queen of the French, has been able to get up for several successive days, and is in a fair way of recovery.

No improvement has taken place in Prince Paskiewitch's health. Prince Theodore, his son, has arrived at Warsaw; and Professor Oppolzer, a physician of great eminence, has been sent for from Vienna to attend on the illustrious patient.

Lord Canning, the new Governor-General of India, left Marseilles on the 5th inst., in the *Caradoc*, for Alexandria. A steam-frigate will be in attendance for his Lordship at Suez, to convey him, his family, and suite to Bombay.

The Princess Amelia of Saxony, who lately underwent an operation for cataract, has fully recovered her sight, and is going on so well that no further bulletins are to be issued.

The Emperor of Russia, in returning through Moscow, devoted the short time he stopped there to religious acts. He visited in succession the numerous churches of the Kremlin, and paid his devotions to the relics, and at his departure he received from the Bishop the image of a saint.

The King of the Belgians is about to purchase an estate on the island of Mairakaz, near Warasdin, in Croatia, at the price of 4,600,000 florins.

Sir Hamilton Seymour has taken the apartments at Vienna which were occupied by M. Drouyn de Lhuys during the Conferences.

The Marquis de Turgot, French Minister at Madrid, has appeared to the law tribunals relative to an article inserted in that journal insulting to the Empress Eugénie.

The marriage of General Canrobert with the daughter of a wealthy physician attached to the Imperial Court is spoken of in Paris. The Emperor interests himself very much in this union.

The *Opinion* of Turin announces the arrival there of Mr. Smith O'Brien.

The Earl of Eglinton and Winton, president of the institution, occupied the chair at the annual soirée of the members and friends of the Glasgow Athenæum last week.

The young Count Orloff, who was wounded in the eye before Silistria, has arrived at St. Petersburg with his mother and his physician.

The Emperor of Russia has given to M. Gretschev, the editor of the *Northern Bee*, a snuff-box, richly set with diamonds, and inscribed with the name of the Imperial donor.

Mr. Bunning has been presented with a very handsome diamond ring by the Marquis d'Azeglio, by order of his Majesty the King of Sardinia, as a memorial of his Majesty's approbation of the decorations at Guildhall on the 4th December.

The Russian Ambassador, in special audience by the King of Prussia on the 7th inst., presented to his Majesty an autograph letter from the Emperor Alexander, in which the latter announces the betrothal of the Grand Duke Nicholas.

The *Gazette* of Tuesday evening contains a notice for the election of a temporal peer of Ireland, in the room of the late Viscount De Vesey.

On the 22nd inst. the National Guard of Paris intend giving a banquet to the Imperial Guard in the Palace of the Universal Exhibition.

The rumour that General Shabalski, who commanded the Russian cavalry before Eupatoria on a recent occasion, and sustained a loss, had been disgraced by the Emperor is not correct. The Emperor has conferred on him the Order of St. Vladimir of the first class.

Sir James Fergusson, of Kilkerran, Bart., M.P., has complied with a solicitation, forwarded to him by the Mechanic's Institution, Glasgow, to deliver a public lecture there on the war.

Baron James Rothschild, who was at Compiegne with the Imperial and Royal party on Thursday week, arrived in Paris at twelve o'clock on Friday, in consequence of a telegraphic despatch informing him of the death of his eldest brother, M. Anselm Rothschild, of Frankfurt.

A handsome monumental brass is about to be placed in Salisbury Cathedral in memory of Lieutenant Greathed, First Lieutenant of H.M.S. *Britannia*, who fell in the trenches before Sebastopol in October, 1854.

Dr. Cullen, who at one time had paramount influence at Rome, is said to have lost something of that influence, and Dr. McHale has proportionately risen in the estimation of the Pope and the Propaganda.

An order of the day of the Grand Duke Constantine, published at St. Petersburg on the 28th ult., announces that the crews of the fleet who have taken part in the defence of Sebastopol may carry on their helmets the following inscription, "For Sebastopol, from Sept. 18, 1854, to Aug. 27, 1855."

A "monster concert" is about to be given at Vienna, and out of the proceeds a handsome monument is to be erected over the spot where Mozart's bones lie.

Mr. Charles Dickens has promised to read his "Christmas Carol" at Sheffield on the evening of Saturday, the 22nd inst., for the benefit of the Mechanics' Institution in that town.

The mother of M. Caussidière, who was Prefect of the Police during the early days of the Revolution of 1848, was interred on Saturday morning in the cemetery of Montmartre. From 80 to 100 persons followed her to the grave.

Mademoiselle Julie, whose clothes caught fire during the performance of the "Good Woman of the Wood," at the Plymouth Theatre, on the 20th ult., expired on Sunday morning last, in her nineteenth year.

Mdlle. Rachel's brother has written to the *Figaro* to state that the receipts of the French company for the first two months of their acting in America (at New York and Boston) amounted to upwards of £21,000.

The Austrian Minister of Finance has calculated that the proposed reduction of the army will be a saving to the Treasury of 30,000,000 florins—a sum equivalent to about £3,000,000.

Shakespeare's "Tempest" has been produced at the Munich Theatre with great success. The *Augsburg Gazette* says that this is the first time the drama has ever been played in its original form in Germany.

The Glasgow Cathedral improvements are now nearly completed. The contractors are at present engaged in fitting up the new seating and stalls.

Permission has been refused to a Prussian Protestant nobleman to purchase a domain in the Tyrol. This is looked on as one of the first fruits of the Austrian Concordat.

The receipts of the theatres, concerts, balls, and curiosities of Paris, in the month of November, amounted to 1,510,319 fr., being 263,605 fr. less than those of October.

The officers of the Oxfordshire Militia belonging to the staff now in Oxford purpose, with some members of the University, giving two theatrical entertainments in the Town-hall on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 10 and 11.

The bridge of boats over the Rhine, at Mentz, was removed on the 3rd, as large masses of ice had begun to drift down the river.

A medical journal of St. Petersburg states that between October 1, 1852, and the 1st November, 1855, there have been 5065 cases of cholera in that city.

Last week, at the Somersetshire Winter Assizes, a verdict of "Not Guilty" was recorded in the case of Thomas Tutton, charged with wilfully administering a quantity of arsenic to his father at Bathaston, near Bath, in August last.

During the week ending November 17 the imports of foreign dry goods at New York were 100 per cent larger than in the corresponding period last year.

According to the *Echo de l'Est*, it is in contemplation next spring to form a camp on the banks of the Moselle.

The Liège journals mention as a remarkable fact that, on the 5th inst., not a single death was declared in that town, out of a population of 85,000 inhabitants.

The grocers of Newcastle and Gateshead have contributed £477 to the local charities, in lieu of the practice, which is to be abandoned, of giving Christmas-boxes to their customers.

A letter from Genoa states that three hundred political refugees have just embarked at that port for Australia.

A reprieve has been granted the convict Lorden, now in Newgate, who was sentenced to death for the murder of his wife in a fit of drunken jealousy.

A fire broke out on the night of the 3rd at the terminus of the Præsbury Railway at Vienna, and before it could be put out six carriages and other stock were destroyed.

The body of a man was found a few days ago buried in snow on the road over the Simplon.

The Government has asked the Highland Society to undertake permanently the collection of the agricultural statistics of Scotland.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT.

At the meeting of the Privy Council, held at Windsor on Friday, the 7th inst., the following order was sanctioned by her Majesty:—

It having been represented to her Majesty in Council by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, by a memorial sealed with the seal of the said Governor and Company, and dated the 28th day of November, 1855, that certain bankers, in the said memorial named, who, on the 6th day of May, 1844, were issuing their own bank-notes to the extent of sums amounting, in the aggregate, to the sum of £712,623, have ceased to issue their own bank-notes, and the said Governor and Company thereupon humbly made application to be authorised, under the provisions of the Act passed in the seventh and eighth years of the reign of her Majesty, chap. 32, entitled "An Act to regulate the issue of bank-notes, and for giving to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England certain privileges for a limited period," to increase the amount of securities in the Issue Department of the Bank of England, and to extend the issue of their own bank-notes to an amount not exceeding two-thirds of the amount which the bankers, so ceasing to issue, were authorised to issue under the provisions of that Act; now, it is this day ordered by her Majesty, by and with the advice of her Privy Council, that the said Governor and Company shall be, and they are hereby, authorised and empowered to increase the amount of securities in the Issue Department of the Bank of England to the extent of £475,000, beyond the total sum or value of £14,000,000 in the said Act mentioned, and thereupon to issue additional Bank of England notes from the said Issue Department in manner in the said Act mentioned, to the amount of £475,000.

C. C. GREVILLE.

The Will of Mrs. Sophia Ward, of Claremont-square, Pentonville, has been sworn under £38,000 personally.

The Markets.—The prospect of a fall in the price of butcher's meat may be surmised from the rate at which heavy contracts have been entered into for the year commenced January, 1856:—Beef, 4½d. per lb.; mutton, 5½d. per lb.

The committee of the municipal schools at Turin has unanimously decided upon dispensing with the services, as teachers, of the brotherhood known in France as the "Frères des Ecoles Chrétiennes," or "Frères Ignorantins."

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

As the late rumours in reference to peace with Russia have not been confirmed, we have had numerous sellers of Stock this week. The market for national securities has, therefore, been heavy, and prices have fallen about one per cent. The order in Council in reference to an additional issue of notes, and to which we alluded some time since, has been published. By this order the Bank of England is empowered to issue notes to the extent of £475,000 beyond its present amount. This sum, it must be observed, is two-thirds of the notes thrown out of circulation through the late failures of banks of issue in the provinces.

We have had only two small arrivals of bullion—viz., 9000 dollars from New York, and about £20,000 in silver from Belgium. The official returns of the exports of the previous metals show a limited amount; but large quantities of gold still continue to leave the country through private hands. From the fact that we are now importing enormous quantities of produce from America, especially cotton, grain, and flour, and that immense supplies will be shipped during the next two months, we may anticipate very limited imports of gold from the United States for some time.

On Monday the dealings in Consols were small, and prices were rather drooping. The Reduced marked 99½; the Three per Consols, 89½ ex div.; the New Three per Consols, 89½; and Consols for Account, 89½ to 89½. Bank Stock was 210. Long Annuities, 1860, 3½; ditto, 1859, 3 5-16; ditto, 1855, 16 5-16. India Bonds, 6s. dis.; Exchequer Bills, 1s. to 6s. dis.; Exchequer Bonds, both series, 98½. Tuesday's business was chiefly confined to sales, as follows:—Bank Stock, 210½; Three per Consols Reduced, 89½ to 89½; New Three per Consols, 89½ to 89½; Long Annuities, 1860, 3½; ditto, 1855, 16½; India Bonds, 6s. dis.; Consols for Account, 89½ to 89½; Exchequer Bills, 1s. to 6s. dis.; Exchequer Bonds, 98½ to 97½. On Wednesday there was considerable flatness in the market, arising in some measure from a report that Kars had fallen. Consols opened at 88½, then rose to 88½; but afterwards declined to 88½. The New Three per Consols were 88½ to 89½; and the Reduced, 88½. Bank Stock, 209; Exchequer Bills, 7s. to 24 discount.

The Foreign-house has been devoid of animation, yet we have no marked change to report in the quotations. Brazilian Five per Cents have been 99 to 100; Ditto, Small, 99½; Buenos Ayres Six per Cents, 57; Granada, New Active, One-and-a-half per Cents, 19½; Ditto, Deferred, 6½; Peruvian Four-and-a-half per Cents, 7½; Russian Five per Cents, 94½; Ditto, Four-and-a-half per Cents, 90; Sardinian Five per Cents, 84 ex div.; Spanish New Deferred, 20½; Turkish Six per Cents, 84½; Ditto, Small, 83½; Ditto, New Scrip, for the Account, 34 discount; Venezuela Four-and-a-quarter per Cents, 25½; Ditto, Deferred, 11½; Dutch Two-and-a-half per Cents, 63½.

There has been a steady business doing in Joint-Stock Bank Shares, at fair quotations:—City have realised 61; Commercial of London, 30½; London Chartered of Australia, 16½; Ditto New, 1½; London and Westminster, 45; National Provincial of England, 7½; Provincial of Ireland, 53½; and Union of London, 30½.

Most Miscellaneous Securities have ruled dull, but without much change in price. Canada Company's Bonds have sold at 145; Ditto Government Securities, 5½ per Cent, 109½; Crystal Palace, 4½; Ditto, Preference, 4½; English and Australian Copper Smelting Company, 1½; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 15½; Mexican and South American, 6½; Netherlands Land, 1½; North of Europe Steam, 12½; Peel River Land and Mineral, 2½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 69½; St. Katharine Dock, 84½; Victoria Dock, 9½; Hungerford-bridge, 12½; Vauxhall, 21½; Berlin Waterworks, 7; Kent, 7½; Southwark and Vauxhall, 59½; West Middlesex, 90.

Canal Shares have been almost nominal. Ashton and Oldham, 145; Derby, 84; Leicester, 49½; Loughborough, 550; Stafford and Worcester, 420; Stour-bridge, 290.

Insurance Companies' Shares have been almost wholly neglected. In prices, however, no material change has taken place. The following are the leading quotations realised during the week:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Aberdeen, 22½; Bristol and Exeter, 80; Caledonian, 55½; East Anglian, 12; Eastern Counties, 8½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 51; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 17½; Great Northern, 87½; Ditto, A Stock, 72; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 102½; Great Western, 50½; Lancashire and Carlisle, 70½; London and Brighton, 95; London and North-Western, 94½; London and South-Western, 86½; Ditto, £50, 40½; Midland, 64½; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 37½; Norfolk, 44; North-Eastern, Berwick, 68½; Ditto, York, 45; North Staffordshire, 94; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 22½; Scottish Central, 100; South-Eastern, 57½.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—Hull and Selby, 104; Midland and Bradford, 89½.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Eastern Counties, New, Six per Cent, 12; Great Northern Five per Cent, 114½; Great North of Scotland, First Preference, 9½; Great Western Irredeemable Four per Cent, 79; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, New £10 Shares, 124½; Ditto, £6, 5; Consolidated Bristol and Birmingham, 132; North Staffordshire, 20½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 94.

FOREIGN.—Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7½; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India, 4½; East Indian, 20½; Grand Trunk of Canada, A Issue, 114; Ditto, 16½; Great Central of France, 13½; Great Indian Peninsula, New, 3; Great Western of Canada, 24; Ditto, Bonds payable in 1873, 104; Namur and Liège, with interest, 5½; Royal Swedish, 2½; Illinois, Six per Cent, 70½; Ditto, Free Land, 77½.

All Mining Shares have been very dull. St. John del Rey have marked 30; Cobro Copper, 63½; Colonial Gold, 4½; Copiapo, 19½; Tin Croft, 4½; United Mexican, 4.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE, Dec. 10.—The supply of English wheat on sale in to-day's market was on the increase, and in somewhat improved condition. All kinds sold heavily, at a decline in the quotations, compared with Monday last, of from 3d. to fully 4s. per quarter, and a clearance was not effected. In foreign wheat—the show of which was very good—the business was transacted that price was almost nominal, and floating cargoes of grain were lower to purchase. We had a very dull inquiry for barley, the value of which gave way 2s. per quarter. Malt sold at the same amount of reduction. New oats were 6s. to 7s. per quarter cheaper; but old quality realised previous rates. The inquiry for beans and peas was heavy, at from 1s. to 2s. per quarter decline. Flour moved off slowly, at 2s. per sack less money—the top price of English being 7s. 1s. per 25 lb. bag.

Dec. 12.—A very limited business was transacted in all articles of grain, to-day, at Monday's decline in value. English—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 58s. to 62s.; ditto, white, 65s. to 68s.; Norfolk and Suffolk red, 58s. to 62s.; rye, 58s. to 61s.; grinding barley, 31s. to 33s.; distilling ditto, 38s. to 40s.; malted ditto, 38s. to 41s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 75s. to 80s.; brown ditto, 61s. to 65s.; Kingston and Ware, 70s. to 80s.; Chevallier, 81s. to 82s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 27s. to 28s.; potato ditto, 28s. to 35s.; Troughal and Cork, black, 23s. to 25s.; ditto, white, 25s. to 29s.; tick beans, 40s. to 45s.; grey peas, 42s. to 44s.; mangle, 41s. to 46s.; white, 50s. to 52s.; bolters, 51s. to 54s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 75s. to 78s.; Suffolk, 57s. to 58s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 59s. to 61s. per 20 lbs.; American flour, 42s. to 47s. per barrel.

Seeds.—For the time of year about an average business is doing in most seeds, at full price. Cakes move off steadily, at extreme rates. Linseed, English, crushing, 74s. to 84s.; Mediterranean, 78s. to 83s.; hempseed, 56s. to 58s. per quarter. Cornmeal, 20s. to 30s. per cwt. Brown mustard-seed, 12s. to 10s.; white ditto, 8s. to 11s.; tares, 5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per bushel. English rapeseed, 90s. to 94s. per quarter. Linseed cakes, English, 41s. 5s. to 45s.; ditto, foreign, 41s. 10s. to 44s. 10s.; rape cakes, 27 10s. to 29 10s. per ton. Canary, 63s. to 68s. per quarter.

Wool.—The prices of woolen have been passed off from 10½d. to 11½d.; of Lonsdale, 10d. to 11d. per lb. of clean.

Fer.—The public sales held this week have passed off slowly, without leading to any material change in prices. In the private market about an average business is doing, on former terms.

Sugar.—Although dealers generally are very short of stock, a very limited business is doing in all kinds of raw sugar, and the prices realised this week show a decline of from 10s. to 14s. per cwt. from the highest point of the market. Refined goods so few sales have been made that the quotations are almost nominal. The imports and stocks are rapidly increasing.

Coffee.—On the whole our market is firm, especially for Plantation coffee, but we have no change to notice in the quotations. Good old, native Ceylon has changed hands at from 15s. to 16s. per cwt.

Tea.—For immediate delivery very few sales have been effected, at the late decline in value. About 2000 tons have been bought for forward delivery, at from 10s. to 11s. per cwt.

Provisions.—We have no change to notice in the value of any kind of Irish butter, and the demand is by no means active. Foreign qualities move off steadily, at very full prices; but English butter is a dull inquiry. The bacon market is exceedingly heavy, at a further reduction in value of from 2s. to 3s. per cwt. Prime aleable Waterford has sold, in weekly shipments up to February next, at 39s.; and Lincolnshire, for three months forward, at 50s. per cwt. on board. Hams are quite 4s. per cwt. cheaper.

Tallow.—The demand is steady, and prices have ruled in favour of sellers. P.Y.C. on the spot, has charged hands at 60s. 6d. to 62s. 6d. per cwt. Rough fat, 3s. 7d. per 8 lb. The spot is now 100 casks, against 33,557 ditto in 1854.

Oil.—Lined oil moves off slowly, at 42s. to 43s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot, and 43s. 6d. for forward delivery. Southern is selling at 42s. to 43s. 6d. per cwt. Turpentine is dull, at 33s. 6d. to 35s. for spirits, and 10s. 9d. to 11s. for rough.

Spirits.—Rum continues steady, at full prices. Proof Leeward, 3s. 1d. to 3s. 3d.; and East India, 2s. 1d. to 3s. per gallon. Brandy is quite as dear as last week, with a firm demand. Malt spirit, 11s. 2d.

Coal.—Eden Main, 21s. 9d.; Hutton, 23s.; Lumley, 21s. 9d.; South Hutton, 23s. 9d.; Caspoy, 21s. 9d.; Hough Hall, 21s. 3d.; Tees, 23s.; West Belmont, 21s. 10s. 9d. per ton.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 24 5s. to 26 6s.; clover ditto, 24 10s. to 27 0s.; and straw, 14 4s. to 14 10s. per load.

Hops.—Fine new hops are in fair request, at fully last week's prices. Inferior kinds move off slowly, on former terms. Mid and East Kent pockets, 70s. to 120s.; Weald of Kent, 65s. to 95s.; Sussex, 60s. to 90s. per cwt.

Wool.—There is a slight improvement in the demand for nearly all kinds of English wool, at full last week's prices, but foreign and colonial qualities are heavy, as follows:—York Regents, 90s. to 110s.; Kent and Essex ditto, 80s. to 95s.; Scotch ditto, 45s. to 95s. per ton.

Metropolitan Cattle Market.—The supplies of beasts have been moderate, and in improved condition. All beasts have sold steadily, at fully last week's quotations. Sheep have moved off slowly, at about stationary prices. Calves have produced rather more money; but pigs have met a dull inquiry.

Beef, from 3s. 8d. to 5s. 2d.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 5s. 6d.; veal, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 2d.; pork, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 8d. per 8 lbs., to sink the offals.

Butter and Lard.—These markets are heavily supplied, yet a steady business is doing, as follows:—Beef, from 3s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.; veal, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 10d.; pork, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 4d. per 8 lbs. by the carcase.

ROBERT HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7.

WAR-OFFICE, DEC. 7.

6th Dragon Guards: Cornet F. N. Astley to be Lieutenant.
10th Light Dragoons: Cornet S. Vyse to be Lieutenant.
13th: Cornet R. A. Clement to be Lieutenant.
Royal Artillery: Staff Surgeon of the Second Class W. Perry to be Surgeon.
3rd Foot: C. D. Ballie, J. H. Le Cocq, to be Ensigns.
4th: H. Bland to be Ensign.
10th: Ensign H. A. Donald to be Ensign.
12th: H. Kulpe, J. O. Johnson, to be Ensigns.
15th: H. H. Westby to be Ensign.
17th: Ensign F. Maycock to be Lieutenant.
19th: Quartermaster T. Palmer to be Paymaster.
21st: J. H. Cowan to be Ensign.
22nd: Ensign T. C. Hinds to be Lieutenant.
Staff-Surgeon of the Second Class W. Maclean to be Surgeon.
23rd: Ensign A. C. Gosling to be Lieutenant.
24th: W. L. Knowles, J. E. Marsden, to be Ensigns.
25th: Lieut. H. C. Worthington to be Adjutant.
31st: Staff-Surgeon of the Second Class W. T. Hoskins to be Surgeon.
35th: W. H. B. Pryn to be Ensign.
38th: Serg-Major R. Smith to be Quartermaster.
Lancashire: Troop-Sergeant-Major W. Talbot to be Cornet.
PROVINCIAL DEPT. BATTALION.—Paymaster A. Clendinning to be Paymaster.
UNATTACHED.—Brevet-Major J. W. Thomas to have his Brevet rank converted into substantive rank.
STAFF.—W. H. Fitzgerald to be Paymaster of a Recruiting District.
HOSPITAL STAFF.—Surg. R. Templeton, M.D., to be Staff-Surgeon of the First Class; Surg. G. Wilkinson, M.D., W. F. J. Ivey, J. R. M. Lewis, M.D., to be Staff-Surgeons of the Second Class; Acting Assist.-Surgs. J. C. Kulpe, C. J. Kirwan, to be Staff-Surgeons of the Second Class.
H.R. & L.—Capt. J. P. Milford to be Major; Capt. C. J. Lindam, Brigade-Major of the 1st West India Regiment, to have the temporary rank of Major whilst so employed.

BANKRUPTS.

A. MCARDOLL, Brighton, seller of musical instruments.—H. BAIRD, Sheffield, Yorkshire, linen-draper.—J. VIRTUE, Newman-street, Oxford-street, and a free-mason, Tottenham-court-road, carpenter and undertaker.—J. GRANGER, Blackman-street, Southwark, licensed victualler.—J. HULLER, Rochester, jeweller and dealer in hardware.—S. JACKSON, Sutton, Yorkshire, machine maker and manufacturer.—H. F. NORFOLK, York-street, St. James's, Westminster, brush-maker.—G. F. HICKINS, Birmingham, patent spring manufacturer.—J. W. MAUDE, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, Commercial-road, Limehouse, and Wharf-road, City-road, lighterage.—B. HAGEN, Aldermanbury, merchant and importer of goods.—F. S. SALADIN, Manchester, corn and flour dealer.—S. SMITH, Holywell-row, Rhodochite, carman and currier.—J. LEWIS, T. LEWIN, Liverpool, wine and spirit merchants.—J. SOLOMON, Vine-street, Minorities, beer merchant.—A. R. FRY, Sunderland, builder and provision dealer.—T. P. COURTNEY, Thames Ditton and East Molesey, Surrey, cowkeeper.—W. E. BROCKETT, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Whickham, Durham, money scrivener, horse dealer, and cattle dealer.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11.

WAR-OFFICE, DEC. 11.

BREVE.—Lieut.-Col. R. P. Campbell to be Colonel in the Army. Brevet Lieut.-Col. W. M. S. M'Murdo, E. K. Wetherell, to be Aides-de-Camp to the Queen, with the rank of Colonel in the Army.
ADMIRALTY, DEC. 11.
Vice-Admiral of the Blue, J. Cooke, K.C.B., to receive a pension of £150 a year; and the name of Vice-Admiral J. Cooke has been removed to the Reserved Half-pay List accordingly; in consequence of the following promotions, dated 10th ult., have taken place:—Rear-Admiral of the Red A. R. Sharpe, C.B., to be Vice-Admiral of the Blue; Rear-Admiral of the White W. Walpole, to be Rear-Admiral of the Red; Rear-Admiral of the Blue Sir M. Seymour, K.C.B., to be Rear-Admiral of the White; Captain C. Graham, C.B., to be Rear-Admiral of the Blue; Lieut. Colonel J. Wilson (C.B.), to be a retired Rear-Admiral, on the terms proposed in the *London Gazette* of 1st September, 1855, without increase of pay.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

H. OSBORN, Lower Thames-street, City, licensed victualler.
BANKRUPTS.
W. THOMAS, Catherine-street, Strand, publisher.—J. BOND, Ludgate-hill, shawlmaker.—T. BENNETT, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, tailor.—R. HUDSON, Church-street, Hackney, Berlin and fancy wool warehouseman.—F. VAHEY and E. H. OWEN, Strand, publishers.—J. JAMESON, Honey-lane, Milk-street, City, shawl warehouseman.—J. H. HADD, Brighton, licensed victualler.—J. H. COLBORE, Poole, draper.—G. BEICHER, Cornhill, City, and Northern Hall-street, King's-cross, and Roudon, Gloucestershire, coal and stone merchant.—J. F. SHALLIS, St. Albans, shawl warehouseman.—W. BEICHER, Birmingham, silk-mercer.—S. WELLS, LEICESTER, City, leather dealer.—S. DAVIS and T. BRYAN, Birmingham, engineers.—H. A. SHILTON, Coventry, trimming-manufacturer.—W. SWEET, Stoke Newington, carpenter.—J. STEPHENSON, Hogshead-lane, Lincolnshire, Joiner.—F. JACQUES, Droylsden, Lancashire, silk-dyer.

SCOTCH SQUESTRATIONS.

ANDERSON and CURRIE, Glasgow, wine-merchants.—J. GLEN, Fishier, cattle-dealer.—J. CARTER, Glasgow, merchant.—J. TRAIL, Edinburgh, cabinetmaker.

BIRTHS.

On Friday, the 7th inst., at Upper Brook-street, the Mon. Mrs. Monckton Milnes, of a daughter.
On the 9th inst., at Walesby Rectory, Lincolnshire, the wife of the Rev. W. B. Philpot, of a son.
On the 8th October, 1855, at Arrah Shahabad, India, the wife of Richard V. Doyle, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 11th inst., at All Souls Church, Langham-place, by the Rev. Maze W. Gregory, M.A., Vicar of Rode, Northampton

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

MR. W. S. WOODIN AS RACHEL IN "LES HORACES."
W. S. WOODIN'S OLIO OF ODDITIES
 EVERY EVENING at Eight, at the POLYGRAPHIC HALL,
 King William-street, Strand. Box-offices open from Eleven to Five.

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 Mr. GORDON CUMMING describes every Night (except Saturday), at Eight, what he SAW and DID in SOUTH AFRICA. Morning Entertainments every Saturday, at Three o'clock. The Scenes are painted by Messrs. Leitch, Harrison, and George Thomas, Wolf, Charles Haghe, Louis Haghe, and Phillips. The Music conducted by Mr. J. Colson.—Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s. The Collection on View during the day, from Eleven to Six, 1s.

LAST WEEK.—FIFTH SEASON.—The WINTER EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, SKETCHES, and WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL, including a complete Collection of all the Engraved Works of Sir Edwin Landseer, is NOW OPEN for the Season, at the GALLERY, 111, Pall-mall, from Ten till Five o'clock. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

LONDON AND PARIS JOINT-STOCK BANK.—Notice is hereby given, that the SHARE LIST will be CLOSED on WEDNESDAY, the 19th inst., and that no further applications for Shares will be received after that date. By order, JAMES KNIGHT, General Manager, 4, Princes-street, Mansion-house, Dec. 10, 1855.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.—NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Company will be held at the BANK in Lombard-street, on WEDNESDAY, the 10th day of JANUARY next, at One o'clock precisely, to declare a Dividend, and to elect three Directors in the room of William Haigh, Esq., Joseph Esdaile, Esq., and John Stewart, Esq., who retire by rotation, but being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly. By order of the Board, J. W. GILBERT, General Manager, Lombury, 28th November, 1855.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from 31st Dec. to 21st January, to prepare for the Dividend.

BANK OF LONDON.
 Incorporated by Royal Charter. Capital, £600,000.
 HEAD BANKING-ROOMS, 2, Lombard-street (late the Hall of Commerce).
 CHARING-CROSS BRANCH—No. 450, West-Strand.
 TERMS OF BUSINESS.

Current or drawing accounts are received, and interest allowed on balances. DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.—The rate of interest now allowed on deposits at ten days' notice of withdrawal is five per cent on sums of £10 and upwards. English and Foreign Agency and every description of Banking Business undertaken.

ADVANTAGES OFFERED TO CUSTOMERS BY THE BANK OF LONDON.

PROFIT.—Receiving a fixed rate of interest on their balances, the customers participate in the profits without incurring the risk of partnership.

SECURITY.—A capital of £600,000, of which £300,000 is paid up and invested.

This capital, or any portion thereof, cannot be withdrawn.

Further security is afforded by four hundred partners, whose liability is not limited to the amount of the capital or of their respective shares.

PUBLICITY.—The Assets and Liabilities of the Bank are published monthly in the "Gazette."

A full account of the position of the Bank, attested by the Auditors, must be published at least once in every year.

SECURITY.—While complete publicity as regards the position of the Bank is provided for, the pecuniary affairs of the customers are protected by declarations of assent executed by the Directors, Manager, and the officers of every grade.

(By order) J. W. GILBERT, General Manager, 2, Lombard-street, Dec. 6, 1855.

THE LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

Established in 1836.
 Princes-street, Mansion-house, and 69, Pall-mall.

Subscribed Capital £3,000,000
 Paid-up Capital £600,000
 Guarantee Fund £150,000

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 William Bird, Esq., Henry Grace, Esq.,
 Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P.,
 Alderman Sir James Carrall,
 William Miller, Esq.,
 Alderman Sir James Duke, Bart.,
 M.P.,
 Philip William Flower, Esq.,
 George Holgate Foster, Esq.,
 Francis Bennett Goldney, Esq.,
 Wm. Ormsby Gore, Esq., M.P.,
 Manager—George Pollard, Esq.

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Stratham, Surrey, and Aldersgate, London, for CHILDREN of those who in prosperity, Orphans or not. The next Election will take place on 8th February, 1856. New Candidates should be nominated immediately. Donations and Subscriptions gratefully received by E. F. LEWIS, Secretary, 2, Charlotte-row, Mansion-house.

Donations are earnestly solicited for the "Special Fund" for repairs, &c.

MORAN and CONTINENTAL PARCELS

DELIVERY COMPANY.—Despatches are regularly made up for all parts of the World. Express to the Continent every day—4, Agar-street, Strand; 17, Gracechurch-street, London; and 68, South Castle-street, Liverpool.

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Any information will be kindly given by the following gentlemen:—Wm. Powis, Esq., 8, Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood; Wm. Meyer, Esq., Royal Marine, Lillimor; Lewis Leslie, Esq., Rothay Villa, Camden-place, Kensington; and F. King, Esq., Fyning House, Petersfield, Sussex.

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ROUSSILLON, 30s. per dozen (from the

Pyrenean Mountains). The importations of this wine for three years past are as follows, viz.:—for 1852, 500 pipes; 1853, 1000 pipes; 1854, 2000 pipes. The progressive increase of consumption, as shown by the above figures, is the strongest possible proof of the high estimation in which this noble wine is held by the public, and the numerous testimonials daily received of approval by the advertisers are the best evidence of its excellence and its title to rank as a first-class wine. (For particulars see ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of 11th February.) Dinner Party, 25s. 30s. standard, or Natural, 35s.; Old Ruby Decaying Port, 45s.; 45s.; Moselle (muscatel flavour), 35s.; 42s.; St. Julien Claret, 30s.; Red Hermitage, 40s.; 42s.; Black Punch, 30s.; Sparkling Champagne, 48s. Cash. Carriage-free to all Railway Stations in England. Price Lists of all Wines and Spirits will be forwarded (post-free) on application. Just published Catalogues from the Wine Lands, to be had of all Booksellers.—KOSTER and INGLEY, Mitre-court, Milk-street, Cheapside.

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INVESTITURE OF THE KING OF SARDINIA WITH THE ORDER OF THE GARTER, AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—(SEE PAGE 702)



GRAND STAIRCASE AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE, PARIS.

GRAND BALL TO THE KING OF SARDINIA AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE, PARIS.

THE fête given by the City of Paris to the King of Sardinia was of a most magnificent description, and, whilst it equalled any of its predecessors in splendour, it differed from them all in the variety of its decorations. Indeed, the Hôtel de Ville was made to possess a distinctive character of its own. The fine old building remained the same outside in the quaint simplicity of its architecture; but within, each room seemed to assume a more tasteful aspect on each new occasion. No more lovely scene could be viewed than what met the eye on entering the Cour Louis XIV. The winding staircase, of such graceful form, with its double ascent, which had been erected for the visit of Queen Victoria, still preserved its rich decorations; but the difference of the season had necessitated modifications in the arrangements. When the heat of summer raged, as much falling water as the limits of the hall could allow was alike delightful to the eye and ear; but in the present season water would strike unpleasantly. In consequence, the *jets d'eau* which played before each pillar round the hall were suppressed, as were the cascades which fell into the opening near the Salle St. Jean. But the basin in the centre of the Hall, with its naiads, its dolphins, its winged boys, still presented the same fairy-like aspect. The figures of France and England, which on the previous occasion were placed in the centre of the fountain, were replaced by a group of children standing on a sphere surrounded with dolphins, and supporting a large vase, over which the water broke, as it fell, into a thousand sparkling drops. A line of lamps formed a fiery edging outside the spiral ascent of the staircase on the right and left, and a similar cordon ran along the front of the staircase above, over the statues of the water-nymphs, from whose urns the water gushed in a thick volume into the fountain below. At the foot of the staircase, the statues of bronze, which hold at each side a mass of rich

candelabra, with wax-lights, had been silvered. The walls of the cloister, round the hall, were entirely covered with a golden trellis-work, intertwined with vines bearing artificial fruit, producing a most charming effect. On the former occasion a flight of steps was arranged into the Salle St. Jean, at the back of the staircase between the two cascades; but as these latter were suppressed the steps disappeared with them, and two passages were contrived from the cloisters, one on each branch of the state staircase of the Hotel. The general appearance of the hall was much improved by the upper part being ornamented with white marble slabs. The numerous *faisceaux* of tri-coloured flags were removed, except immediately over the landing of the fairy staircase, where a quantity of them, surmounted with shields bearing the arms of France and Sardinia, were placed side by side. The other arrangements were only altered in the details. There were the same crimson velvet draperies trimmed with gold to every window. The figures of boys bearing masses of wax-lights stood before the pillars above; rich chandeliers were suspended between the arches, and above a rich border of living flowers ran round the edge of the roof, just below the point where the gutters are placed; the glass roof still covered the hall, letting down from its centre the magnificent lustre which seemed almost self-suspended, so slight did the golden cord appear by which its huge weight was upheld. All the pillars were adorned at their base with flowers; and screens of evergreens were placed at each side of the entrance. In the Council Chamber, above the Hall, the bust of the King of Sardinia was placed over one fireplace, and that of the Emperor of the French over the other.

Chairs of state were arranged, as usual, in the middle of the Galerie des Fêtes, in front of the salon of introduction. Some French and Sardinian flags, mingled together, were clustered behind the place of honour. This noble gallery, one of the finest in Europe, was one blaze of light from its double line of chandeliers. Every other apartment was also magnificently lit up and adorned with flowers, statues, candelabra, bronzes, and hangings,

with a profusion that the richest palace might envy. Not only were the usual apartments thrown open, but several rooms in the floor above were made available for refreshments and places of repose.

Not less than three entrances were arranged for the guests to reach the apartments: one by the Portal of Henry IV., in front of which a handsome tent had been erected to receive the Imperial party; and the other two by the courts which lead to the two extremities of the Salle St. Jean. The whole front of the building outside was brilliantly illuminated, and the cipher of V. E. in honour of the King was to be seen in various places in jets of gas.

THE KING OF SARDINIA AT COMPIEGNE.

THE French Emperor arrived at Compiègne on the evening of the 9th inst., at six o'clock. All the houses in the town were illuminated. His Majesty was received by the Sub-Prefect and the Mayor. At Creil, the Prefect and the authorities were at the station and saluted his Imperial Majesty. The Emperor was received during his passage with the warmest acclamations. At a quarter before seven the King of Sardinia reached the Imperial château, of which we this week give an Engraving. The King was greeted at Compiègne with cries of "Vive le Roi Victor Emmanuel!" mingled with those of "Vive l'Empereur!"

In the evening there was a grand dinner at the palace, at which the principal public functionaries of the neighbourhood and the Bishop of Beauvais were present.

Next day (Friday) the Emperor and his Royal guest had a day's stag-hunting at Compiègne.

THE King of Sardinia, in order to testify to the French clergy his sense of the very cordial reception which he met with from them, has sent decorations to the several prelates with whom he has had personal communication in France—to the Archbishop of Paris, the Archbishop of Lyons, the Archbishop of Avignon, and the Bishop of Marseilles.



THE CHATEAU AT COMPIEGNE.

WHY IS BREAD DEAR? SOME FACTS ON IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION, AND CULTIVATION.

BREAD is very dear, and there is no probability that it will be cheaper for some time. Dear bread is an affliction that falls with peculiar severity on the working classes. Bread consumes a large share of their wages, and the lower the wages the larger the proportion paid for bread. Under these circumstances it is not extraordinary that the working classes should complain, should meet together to discuss their wants, and cry aloud, as men will do when they suffer pain, without considering whether such cries will help them.

For our own parts we think that, in times like the present, the complaints of the working classes should be listened to and discussed with the utmost attention and tenderness; that they suffer there can be no doubt; and, if the remedies they propose are unwise and unreasonable, they are only repeating what persons in a much higher station, with more means of education, believed to be sound political truths a very few years ago.

We hear at Manchester meetings one speaker calling for a law prohibiting the exportation of corn; and another, a Frenchman, arguing that if the land were divided into small lots among peasant proprietors, as in France, the country would grow more food at a cheaper price. We propose to discuss these points in the kindly spirit befitting a journal so much read among the humblest classes of society—for there are few reading-rooms even in villages where a copy of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS is not to be found. Now, first, why is corn dear after a harvest that appeared bountiful, and that at any rate was near if not quite an average, in spite of a bad sowing-time and the long severe winter, which destroyed wheat on much light—that is, the best-farmed—land? The first reason is that we are at all times, and have been for many years, an importing country. In the very best years, so great is the consumption of our population that we cannot grow enough wheat for our people, and barley and oats for our animals, brewers, and distillers. This country is now a wheat and meat eating country. Rye-bread, the black bread of Europe, which will in climates grow where wheat will not, has long been dismissed; the scale of living among the labouring classes has risen continually for the last fifty years, and we trust it may continue to rise. Even in Ireland, since the famine year, a large quantity of grain is now consumed instead of potatoes. All over the Continent, especially in Belgium and Germany, grain of some kind has to a great extent taken the place of rotten potatoes; so, while we in Great Britain have been increasing in numbers on our small islands, and eating more bread and meat, less potatoes, less barley and oat bread, and have altogether discontinued rye-bread—in the more flourishing towns of the Continent, especially in Prussia, the people have also begun to eat more wheaten bread.

For many years we have imported not less than 24,000,000 bushels of grain, and in some years as much as 50,000,000 bushels, to make up the difference between what we grow, what we consume, and what we keep on hand to retail, as it were, to other less wealthy countries. But this increased importation has not been caused by a falling off in the produce of our fields; on the contrary, acre for acre, we grow more corn than any other country in Europe. As long as the countries from which we imported grain had a large surplus to sell, corn was cheap here. For more than forty years the seasons were so favourable that the continent of Europe had not only as much corn to sell every year as we wanted, but a good deal more that remained stored up in warehouses at every port and river side of the great corn countries.

But in 1852-1853 occurred the worst harvest season all over Europe that had been known since the time of the old war, when, King George III. setting the example, gentlemen gave up eating puddings and pies to save flour. At that time the best bread that could be got was black, sticky, and sour. In 1853, in France, Holland, Belgium, the German provinces on the Rhine, Prussia, Switzer land, and Italy, which had all been sending us corn the previous year, the harvests failed: in some of these countries the people actually starved, and died like flies on the highway of fever and famine as they did in Ireland in 1848. The deficiency of the harvest of Europe in that year, without including England, was nearly fifty millions of quarters, or more than two years' consumption of Great Britain. Now, this universal dearth cleared out all the old stocks and warehouses everywhere. The great reservoirs of grain, which had previously filled up any partial deficiency, and been refilled by the next harvest, were exhausted. The warehouses were swept clean, so that we had only the surplus stock of America to fall back upon. But America had not a large surplus. Californian gold-digging had drawn off her prime farmers and farm labourers, and prices in California had tempted away part of the supply that used to be sent to Europe. The millions of British and German emigrants who were every year pouring into America required to be fed, and did not the first year of that emigration grow enough corn to feed themselves. In addition to Californian demands soon came the Australian gold-diggers, also consuming corn imported from the United States and South America; while at home, with good wages, more bread was eaten than ever.

Thus, between 1853 and 1854, we had in Europe a universal short harvest in the face of large consumption. And since that time there have never been overflowing harvests to fill up the reservoirs of grain on which before the dearth we were able to draw for any extra deficiency we required. On the contrary, France had another moderate harvest in 1854—a terrible calamity in a country where there is no regular legal relief for able-bodied poor out of work. In 1855 (for bad harvests almost always run in groups) the harvest was short again in France, as well as in Holland, Belgium, Prussia, Italy, and in almost all those Baltic provinces from which we usually draw a supply to fill up our annual deficiency.

In addition, then, to one year of dearth all over Europe, three short harvests in France, and two in the north of Europe, we have the deficiency caused by war: war wastes food, in the carriage and distribution among armies. Besides the general waste, the Russian cavalry ate up the green corn in 1854 on the Danube; and Russians and Allies between them have eaten or destroyed the crops around the Sea of Azoff. The Black Sea importations and the importations from Poland have ceased; we even hear of famine there. The destruction and dearth of food are among the taxes of war. We must console ourselves by remembering that it is better to have war on the Danube and in the Crimea than in Scotland, or in Norfolk, Lincolnshire, and the Thames;—that, had we remained unarmed and unprepared, and permitted the fortress of Bomarsund to become as strong as Cronstadt, we certainly should have had the war at home, and perhaps Russians quite unexpectedly making a Sinope of Liverpool or Leith.

As to the proposal for prohibiting importation, the people who make it do not understand what they ask. Apparently they imagine that there is a great store of corn in the country, and that somebody or other is sending it away to other countries, leaving us with a smaller stock every week. But this is a complete mistake. We cannot do without foreign corn; we receive it every week and every day from every port in the world where there is corn to spare. Every one who can sends to England, because English merchants are the best customers. We consume at home and also send abroad. If we prohibit

exportation we also prohibit importation. It would be as if when our sack was not half full we tied up the mouth—none would go out certainly, but then none could go in. At present, as our ports are free, and our merchants have money and good credit, vessels come here in preference to France, and give employment to our sailors, and corn-porters, wharfingers, and bargemen, who earn money and spend wages, in Hull, Liverpool, London, Gloucester, and Southampton. But, if exportation were forbidden, the ships corn-laden would either lie out in the roads until they had found out where the highest price was to be got, or they would proceed to a free port like Hamburg, and land the cargo which we should have to fetch a week or a month afterwards, when we could not do without it, and pay the extra profit of the Hamburg merchant, wharfinger, and warehouseman. This is what is happening now to the French; although they secure the corn they grow, they have to pay us a profit for sending them cargoes which come to us first, because the purchasers know that if they don't sell here they can be sent elsewhere. The result in figures is, that we have this year imported, between the 12th September and 14th November, 412,000 quarters; and, after having sold 117,000 quarters to France and Holland, at a profit, we have retained for our own consumption 295,000 quarters—that being a balance in our favour, in addition to home growth.

We are perfectly aware that there is no more probability of return to the laws prohibiting exportation than of a law imposing a duty on importation; but it is, nevertheless, well to explain to the working classes how it is that to prohibit exportation would, by frightening away the supply, have just the same effect as a tax on food.

And now a few words on the cry, sometimes popular with amiable persons perfectly ignorant of operations of agriculture, for a division of farms into small plots in the hands of peasant proprietors as in France, instead of large farms rented from great landlords as in the best-cultivated counties of England and Scotland. On the political points of this question we shall say nothing, but confine ourselves entirely to the agricultural results. In England, out of sixteen million souls about four are engaged in agriculture. It is for the interest of these engaged in other callings that the agricultural class should produce as much as possible per head from each acre of land cultivated. If we compare the produce of the French and English systems of agriculture, the result is enormously in favour of England. France has a more fertile soil and a finer climate, but, in consequence of the poverty, the ignorance, the want of skill of the peasant farmers, and the dearth of iron, they grow very much less corn and meat per acre than we do.

For instance, in England thirty men cultivating two hundred and fifty acres produce an average profit of £3 4s. per acre, while in France it takes forty men to cultivate the same number of acres, and they only produce £1 12s. per acre. And if France, which contains fifty millions more acres than this country, produced as much corn per acre as we do, her produce would be doubled, she would require no imported corn, and have a large surplus.

Again, the number and quality of live stock are the best tests of the state of agriculture; because the more live stock the more manure—the more manure the more corn. Sheep are the best manure-distributors. Feeding off a turnip-field, they grow fat and distribute fertility at the same time. Great Britain, with 75,000,000 acres, has the same number of sheep (viz. 35,000,000) that France has with 126,000,000 acres; but, then, English sheep weigh twice as much as French sheep. In England (not Scotland and Ireland), in consequence of superior agriculture, 7½ acres, on an average, feed six sheep; in France, 7½ acres only feed two sheep: the six English sheep producing as much mutton as twelve French sheep. Great Britain has 8,000,000 horned cattle; France, 10,000,000; but the British cattle, better bred and better fed, although less in number by 2,000,000, produce 25 per cent. more meat than all the French beasts. And it is the opinion of an eminent French agricultural writer, who is favourable to small farms, that the English farmer paying rent makes as great a profit out of his farm as the French proprietor cultivating himself.

There is nothing surprising in this result; on the contrary, it is to be expected that French agriculture should be very unprofitable, as compared with English. We can only keep land fertile by restoring to it the fertility which each crop exhausts. In France, in order to rest the land, one-third is allowed to remain fallow every year; that is, to rest without a crop. Thus, one-third of what ought to be growing corn for France is every year a desert, because the peasant proprietors cannot afford to buy the live stock, or the implements for good cultivation, or the artificial manures necessary for keeping the land in heart.

In the best counties of England and Scotland (and the example is rapidly spreading) naked fallows are unknown; one crop succeeds another of a different kind, helped by the manure of live stock and purchased manures imported or manufactured by chemists.

But to farm land in perfection requires two capitals—one sunk in suitable farm buildings, in farm roads, draining wet land, fences, gates, &c.; and the other floating, in live stock, seeds, implements, and purchased manures. It is very rare that one man is rich enough to spare both these capitals; therefore, to make land as productive as possible, the division of land between the landlord who finds the land and fixed capital in farming plant and buildings, and the farmer who (on security of tenure) finds skill and floating capital, is decidedly advantageous to the nation. But this arrangement can only be successful where crops can always be sold at a market for cash, which is not always the case in France; and where landlords are sufficiently intelligent and independent to provide the requisite capital of buildings for their tenants, which is not always the case in Ireland. S. S.

A DECIMAL COINAGE.—It may fairly be inferred that any establishment of a decimal coinage which contemplates a grand measure of recoinage, to be executed at one time, has no chance of success whatever. All the plans now recognise this: all the proposers declare that the existing coinage is to continue, until gradually absorbed by the Mint. But in all the plans, except that which adopts the pound and divides it into 1000 parts, this declaration is, in everything except intention, a subterfuge and an evasion. A system which invites us to begin reckoning in sums of ¼d., 2½d., 2s. 1d., and £1 0s. 10½., while our present coins exist, and while we are watching the gradual introduction of coins representing these sums, concurrently with the coins which now exist, will, we are satisfied, invite to nothing but laughter, when it becomes generally understood. The same may be said of the system which proposes 10d. and 8s. 4½. on the same terms. And any system which only gives the option of decimal reckoning, and leaves the power of continuance in our present reckoning, will assuredly never succeed in introducing decimal reckoning at all. We are now speaking of coinage, and therefore have only to compare with others our system in this one respect, referring to our number for 1854 for its description, &c. The farthing, halfpenny, and penny might remain in circulation, at four per cent under their present value, or at twenty-five farthings to the half-shilling. The principal new coin required would be the cent, ten new farthings, the hundredth of a pound. But this coin need not be fully introduced at the moment of the change; it would be enough that reasonable diligence, such as would not seriously inconvenience the Mint, should be used to issue it, and to call in the silver threepences and fourpences, which would, in the mean time, pass for twelve and sixteen new farthings. The recall of the half crowns, and the introduction of florins, might proceed with deliberate steadiness.—*Professor A. A. Nott on the History of the English Coinage.*

TESTIMONY TO FREDERICK MEN.—The *British Friend* reports that the late Mr. Frederick Men, of Primley, in Surrey, has bequeathed the sum of £1000 to the Friends of the Peace, to be distributed to each of the Friends who composed the Committee of the Friends of the Peace, in 1853 on the impending war—viz. J. A. F. Men, Esq., of Primley, and Henry Peace; and also an estate, each valued at about £1000, to John Langford and Richard Cadden.

THE PEBBLE-POLISHERS OF DARKTON.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

SIR,—I have derived much pleasure from the perusal of your recent articles on the Cotton Manufactures of India, and have ventured, in humble imitation of them, to send you an account of a branch of art peculiar, I believe, to Great Britain. At most of the fashionable watering-places of England placards may be seen somewhat to the following effect:—

JOHN SCRUBBINGS,

Lapidary,

Pebbles Polished and Mounted with Expedition.

And we have no doubt but that in many instances the professions so set forth are honestly and faithfully realised. But, as there are rogues in all trades, the reputable craft of which Mr. John Scrubbings is a worthy member, has not failed to attract its due proportion of dishonest professors, and it is to caution the unwary pebble-seekers that we now proceed to describe the process by which much disappointment and some loss are frequently sustained by those "who go down to the sea" for health, amusement, or pebbles.

In order to secure a plentiful crop of customers, the sea-beach is cultivated with an industry that is worthy of a better cause. The first operation is that of—

Preparing the Seed.—This operation is performed by the dishonest lapidary in some secluded place, and in the following ingenious manner. The bottoms (or "kicks," as they are professionally called) of broken champagne-bottles are placed in a large mortar, and mixed with fragments of old sugar-basins, or other pieces of thick common glass. This mixture is generally pounded by a wooden pestle into small lumps, varying in size from a broad bean to a walnut, which are then carefully deposited in the pockets of a coat, and only await the proper time for sowing.

Seed time is late at night or early in the morning, and the sowing is performed by the lapidary, who proceeds to that part of the beach most frequented in the daytime by the pebble-seekers. He wears a thick glove to preserve the hand, and is thus enabled to sow broadcast on the margin of the sea handfuls of the prepared seed. Great care is required not to *over set* any particular spot, in case the after crop should be too abundant. The seed thus deposited at intervals of time and distance by the lapidary is acted upon by the friction of the shingles until it acquires that roundness and opacity necessary to constitute a Darkton diamond, or equally popular gem—the aqua marine of sea-side commerce.

The harvest is not gathered by the lapidary himself at the sea-side; but in some places during the summer and autumn, at others during the winter and spring, numbers of lovely girls and handsome matrons may be seen busy on the beach seeking with a diligence truly remarkable for these coveted jestsoms of the ocean. These ladies are called "pebble-seekers," and nothing can excel the enthusiasm with which they pursue their toil, or the exultation they display when successful. The "pebble-seeker" carries the result of her industry to the expectant lapidary, who waits like a spider in his dingy cell to catch the cooing victim. The opaque mass is placed before him, he turns it over and over, holds it up between his eye and the light, whilst the pebble-seeker, breathless with anxiety, stands agape—to be dilled. "Madam, I congratulate you," at length exclaims the lapidary; "I thought at first it was an aqua marine—a very fine one, but I am delighted to assure you that it is a Darkton diamond of the finest water. It is seldom that we are fortunate enough to have charge of such a valuable stone, and, if I might advise, a ring or a brooch should be its ultimate destination." The enraptured pebble-seeker does not hesitate a moment. "A brooch set in gold, Mr. Grater, if you please. The best gold, and plenty of it."

And now the lapidary begins to feel that his patience, his labour, and his ingenuity, are about to be rewarded. Having appointed a time for the completion of the polishing, he never disappoints the pebble-seeker, for, having a large stock of Brummagem jewellery, he selects something which bears a resemblance to the projected brooch, and which generally proves highly satisfactory to his confiding customer, who believes that the worthless piece of crystal is the product of her own good fortune and industry, and willingly pays whatever may be the cost of polishing and setting her Darkton diamond.

In some cases the harvest is not so easily reaped; for knowing husbands and quick-sighted brothers detect the imposition and remonstrate; but in vain. I do not wish to assert that there are no Darkton diamonds—no aqua marines—no honest lapidaries. I believe in the existence of all and every one; but I have been anxious to describe the manufacture of a spurious article of which I have myself been a recent purchaser. ARADELLA.

Darkton.

THERE MUST BE NO SIAM PEACE.—If it be necessary our soldiers will impose peace in St. Petersburg itself, and Russia feels this so acutely, that, shaken in her faith of the batteries of Cronstadt, she has bristled the shores of the Neva with cannon. Without pretending to be acquainted with strategy, we may assume that the Allies are not concentrating their strength in order to guard Russia. What is the Crimea without Sebastopol? and now that the great arsenal of Russia is destroyed, why should the Allies employ an army of 200,000 men to fight with Russia the possession of uninhabited mountains and sterile steppes? It is easy for them to menace all points of the Black Sea, and that most valuable part of Russia—the Danube—without giving up the position they have conquered. The first cannon fired on the banks of the Danube would cause Austria to abandon an invasion which weighs heavily on some of her statesmen, and which ruins her authority in Europe without establishing her finances. Now, if Austria moves, she would draw with her the major portion, if not the whole, of Germany.—*Constitutionnel, French Government organ.*

THE RUSSIAN LOAN.—Active operations are being carried on here by members of the great Warsaw banking-house of Frenkel and Laski for the completion of the long-talked-of Russian loan. The amount and conditions are kept secret; but it appears that the preliminaries are settled. The Messieurs Laski are both at this place, and are in daily conference with the principals of the houses of Magnus, Mendelssohn, &c., who are interested in the negotiation. A part of the loan will, it is said, be devoted to railway purposes, and especially for the completion of the Warsaw-Petersburg line, of which the earthworks are in a state of progression on divers points. In the event, or rather whenever peace shall be concluded, it is anticipated that a large amount of foreign capital will be attracted into Russia for railway and other joint-stock purposes. The Government, it appears, has opened its eyes fully to the advantage of interesting foreigners in the prosperity and well-being of Russian undertakings, and even in the invigoration of Russian political and financial power, by inducing them to invest capital in Russian undertakings.—*Berlin Correspondent of the Manchester Guardian.*

TRAVELLING AT THE ANTIPODES.—We have now two coaches every day to and from Ballarat—if coaches they may be called, for they are widely different from your notions of a coach. They have no springs, but they are hung on leather straps, so you are sure of being shaken well enough; nor have they any convenience for luggage—in fact, they are like a rough kind of open van. They carry about two-hundred persons, each of whom is allowed the liberal quantity of seven pounds of luggage; all excess in weight he must pay for. The distance is about sixty miles, at the outside, and the fare is £3. They manage to get through in one day, which is very well, considering the roads. In some parts you have to pass through the primitive forest; and it is no joke to drive four horses amongst the trees, winding about in every direction. In particularly muddy and dirty places the passengers have to get out and walk; but on the good parts the horses go at full gallop. About five miles of the road have been laid with planks placed close together, as an experiment. In dry weather it answers very well, but in wet it is slippery. There are several small towns growing up along the road, and good inns every few miles.—*Letter from Geelong, Sept. 10.*

SENDING GUNPOWDER TO RUSSIA.—We condemn the Yankees for doing contraband business with Russia, but forget that Russia, at this moment, is obtaining materials of war from Englishmen. The trade is most extensive in the north, and we regret to say that the number engaged in it is incredibly large. The terrible fire at Newcastle-on-Tyne is not yet forgotten; but what caused that fire? Nobody will tell in Newcastle; but hundreds in Newcastle know that that fire originated in an explosion of yellow alkali. Now, yellow alkali was a disguised name for saltpetre and nitre, which was shipped to the north of Europe in large quantities, and thence forwarded to Russia. On its arrival nothing was required to make it into gunpowder but a proper addition of charcoal.—*Liverpool Daily Post.*

A JOURNAL written in the Polish language exclusively, and intended to spread morality and enlightenment among the lower classes, is to be published at Warsaw, after the 1st of January next, under the auspices of Madame Petroff, wife of the Russian Under-Secretary of State in Poland.

PIRATES IN CHINA.—Her Majesty's sloop *Bittern*, and the mercantile steamer *Imperial*, which had been placed at the disposal of Captain Van Sittart by her overland passage of Hongkong, etc., from Shanghai on the 12th September, to destroy a well-organised body of pirates, who for months infested the coast of China, stopping all native trade, attacking and occasionally capturing vessels under the English flag. At Sheepoo, a harbour strongly fortified, they found a fleet of twenty-two large and small vessels, masted head and stern, fully prepared for an attack, their flags and banners flying in the mast-heads, guns pointed (one vessel at fourteen heavy guns on one side) and the decks crowded with men. The *Bittern* opened her broadside upon the piratical fleet with a beautiful accuracy of fire. The pirates kept up their desperate attack with great spirit, doing considerable damage to the hull and rigging, besides wounding several men, some dangerously. Shortly after twelve the pirates ceased firing, and retreated. The boats were immediately sent to board the deserting vessels, and found only one able to float. All the other other vessels were so mangled and damaged as to be in a sinking state. They were set on fire, and burnt to the water's edge. The pirates having in great force taken possession of a joss-house a few miles over the hills, Captain Van Sittart, at the urgent entreaty of the mandarins, landed the marines and small-arms men to dislodge them. After skirmishing through the brushwood, the doors of the temple were reached by the *Bittern's* crew, although many four or five hundred men were involved by the flames, and in a few minutes suffered from the powerful rays of the sun; a marine died from its effects a few days afterwards. Such a complete destruction of a piratical horde had never previously been heard of in China; all their vessels were destroyed and burnt some hundreds, according to the evidence of a prisoner, were killed by the shot and shell during the engagement; while those who escaped ashore, and who would have in a short time manned another fleet, were killed or captured.



CURÉE AUX FLAMBEAUX.—THE STAG GIVEN TO THE HOUNDS BY TORCHLIGHT.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

"LA CURÉE AUX FLAMBEAUX."

THE *Curée*—that is to say, the giving up to the hounds of the entrails of an animal slain in chase—is not always held at night. It generally takes place on the spot where the stag, to use the French sporting idiom, was *forcé* and *abattu*. This ceremony is preceded by another, called "Le Pied," which consists in cutting off one of the feet, and offering it to the person in whose honour the chase was held.

When the *curée* takes place by torchlight, the body of the animal is carried beneath the windows of the château. A circle is formed by the *piqueurs*, or head hunters, and all the persons who have participated in the pursuit; and, to the sound of a *fanfare*, blown by the sportsmen, one of the *valets de venérerie* cuts up the stag. The *meutes*—that is to say, the hounds, which are let slip last of all, and which terminate the chase—are then brought by the *valets de chien*, who have great difficulty in keeping them from breaking loose. When the entrails have been cut away, the valet sits astride the animal, holding up the *nappe*, or head and neck, and shaking it at the already furious hounds. It is the care of the valet during this interval to conceal the pieces of flesh which are strewn under the body. The hounds are then unbuckled, but are kept within respectful bounds by the whips of the *piqueurs* and the *valets de chien*. When they are sufficiently exasperated the brutes are allowed to rush upon the remains of their victim; only, however, to be driven back again by a whirlwind of whips. When their docility has been thus put to the test, the definitive signal, "Lâchez tout!" is given, and the hounds rush towards the stag.

That is the critical moment for the valet holding the *nappe*, who has now to carry it off and discover the *curée* to the yelling hounds.

This precipitate retreat requires a great deal of skill; for the brutes, maddened by the whip and the shouts of the *piqueurs*, are ready to tear the poor valet limb from limb.

The *Curée* then presents a savage spectacle: the air is filled with growling, barking, and yelling; while the ground is covered with scrambling legs of dogs and mouths reeking with blood.

* * * * *
* un horrible mélange,
D'es et de chairs meurtris et traînés dans la fange,
Des lambeaux pleins de sang et des membres affreux,
Que des chiens devorans se disputent entr'eux!—RACINE.

All this time an inspiring *fanfare* is blown by the whole strength of the company. The definitive signal is invariably given by the person in whose honour the chase is held.

RESULTS OF THE WAR TO RUSSIA.

According to a letter from Russian Poland, dated November 28th, the war is causing very severe distress throughout the Czar's dominions:—

Here (says the writer) the deepest silence covers all the acts of Government. Troops are levied, assembled, disembodied, marched to the north or to the south, or retrace their steps; diplomatic agents or secret emissaries are dispatched in all directions; but all is done mysteriously. Yet, in spite of all precautions, we occasionally learn sufficient to enable us to form an opinion of the misery into which the war has plunged Russia.

The Chamber of Public Relief of St. Petersburg has been obliged to sell by auction the property on which it had made advances, but which it was impossible for the borrowers to pay when the moment arrived; and the number of insolvent debtors increases daily. The population itself has suffered from this state of things. A census has been taken of the male population, and, though four years have passed since the last, yet the numbers remain still the same. On certain points of the empire it is less than 1851, owing, doubtless, to the numerous levies since then. It is not the loss on the field of battle which is solely the cause of this decrease; the general health of the army has much to do with it, and the last report of General Paniutin on the mortality among the troops is actually frightful. These unhappy wretches are decimated by epidemic diseases which assume every sort of character.

For several years past the cholera has not ceased a single day at St. Petersburg. The number of cases may vary, but the malady never disappears. It is not in Russia only that it exists: it rages in Finland, in the Baltic provinces, in Poland, in the Crimea, and in the Caucasus; and wherever troops are assembled in numbers cholera is sure to be in the midst of them.

One fact which is now beyond dispute, and which has particularly attracted attention, is that the female population exceeded the male in proportions far greater than in any other European country, and the great difference between them is now more remarkable than ever.

Whatever be the sacrifices made by the Allied Powers in carrying on the war, they will never be comparable to those of Russia. She has now eight armies on foot—the first, of Finland, under General Berg; the second, of St. Petersburg, under General Rudiger; the third, of the Baltic, under General Sievers; the fourth, of Poland, under General Sumarokoff; the fifth, of the centre, under General Paniutin; the sixth, of the centre, under General Gortschakoff; and the seventh, of the Caucasus, under General Mouravieff. Russia must possess great vitality to meet so many claims: but those violent efforts must produce exhaustion, and that exhaustion her fall.

It would be difficult to give an exact notion of the misery which prevails in several provinces of the empire, and particularly in Poland. I have just traversed the whole southern portion of Volhynia, and I have found everywhere the same evils. The most ordinary articles of consumption are so dear that the peasants are deprived of a portion of what is most necessary, and those who can afford to purchase arrive in crowds to empty markets, from which the greatest part return empty. The harvest has not, however, been bad; indeed, it may be said that we have had an average year; but the corn is taken off for the Government and sent to the south, to form immense magazines which are destined to become the prey of flames, and are consequently lost to every one. In certain provinces the grain intended for seed has failed, and I can declare, without fear of contradiction, that, at the very least, one-fourth of the arable land will remain out of cultivation for want of seed and of hands. The peasants are not the only class that suffer from this state of things. The nobles—even the richest among them—whose fortune consists of corn, see their revenues reduced to proportions which, for most of them, the continuance of the war will change into absolute ruin. All classes of industry are in a state of prostration; the national activity is paralysed, and commerce has suffered irreparable evil. Distilleries are the only establishments that are fully at work. As the Russian Government supplies the national enthusiasm of its troops with the excitement of intoxication, spirituous liquors are made in enormous quantities for the Crimea and Bessarabia, in order to heat up the courage of the soldiers. All the grain employed by manufacturers is taken away for consumption, and increases the general misery. We had counted on the potato crop, which at first presented a favourable aspect; but the blight has made terrible ravages, and fully one-third of the whole is affected with it. To these evils is to be added that of the levies, if we call by that name the brutal press system which in a few hours makes a soldier of a quiet peasant, and hurries him off from his family, without the remotest hope of ever again beholding him dead or alive. The peasants make the most desperate efforts to escape from the recruiting parties; and I could quote you thousands of instances of the perseverance and audacity displayed in flying from them.

SIR R. PEEL, M.P., ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.—At a dinner held at Burton-on-Trent, on Wednesday week, Sir R. Peel said:—His idea was that there was little importance to be attached to these rumours of peace (Hear, hear). He admitted the importance of peace; and, with every one else, would be glad to see it re-established; and to this end he would say, so long as the honour of the Allies was secured, that it mattered not through whose intervention it was established, that of Austria or of a friendly Power. He knew, and they all knew as well as he did, that Austria was no friend of ours (Hear). Austria, under a professed lukewarm friendship, had only cloaked an ill-disguised hostility. And what he would say was, that if they did have negotiations for peace, they must be cautious how they dealt with proposals that came from Austria ("Hear, hear," and cheers). He wished to put the case fairly before them. He wanted peace as much as any man, but if the negotiations for peace were to come from Austria he should be exceedingly cautious about them. He could not forget the past—he could not forget the hesitation and vacillation of Austria, during recent proceedings, and he could not close his eyes to the treacherous conduct of Austria in the Danubian Principalities. Austria entered the Principalities as our friend, but her conduct had been nothing else than that of the ally of Russia. If they were to have a peace, the cause the Allies had espoused, and which had been hallowed, he might say, by the blood of our countrymen, absolutely demanded that it must be satisfactory to the country, and such as the sacrifices it had made demanded (Cheers). The country had cheerfully accepted, because the war was just, all the hardships and burdens war imposed—from the highest to the lowest there had been breathed a spirit of patriotism, as witness of which he might mention the noble contributions to the Patriotic and other funds; and these burdens were accepted in a spirit of magnanimity as great as any nation had ever shown, as we were fighting for a nation whose safety was threatened, and her very people threatened with a slavery more despotic than any which had ever enthralled Greece or Rome (Hear); but, independently of all this, there was the honour of our own country to be held sacred, and therefore he said they must not be satisfied with the bare Four Points (Cheers). The Crimea was no longer an integral part of Russia, and it never must be, and, he would add, it never should be (Great cheering).

ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING IN SCOTLAND.*

It is already a good many years since Professor Blackie became known to the whole British public as the translator of *Æschylus*. It is only now, however, that we in the south begin to be familiar with another phase of his varied activity, in which, it seems, he has been long well known to his countrymen. Of the formidable and very determined school of University Reformers which has recently sprung up in Scotland, Professor Blackie was, as we now learn, the earliest representative; and long before Mr. Lorimer's articles appeared in the *North British Review*, or the Association for the Extension of the Scottish Universities was formed, he had already published several appeals to the Scottish people on the defective condition of their highest educational institutions. We are ashamed to say that our own acquaintance with his earliest labours in this most important department of the social politics of our neighbourhood is not so accurate as for our own sakes we could now wish that it had been. All that we can say of them with confidence is that they must have been very spirited indeed if they surpassed his present performance in that respect; and that they could scarcely have equalled it in maturity of view we may gather from the fact that his connection with the Scottish Universities has been unbroken, and his means of judging of their virtues and their defects consequently increasing from day to day. The following extracts will convey to our readers the best conception of his view of their present condition. The confessions which they involve must have been painful to a Scotchman, and still more to a Scotch professor; but Professor Blackie is evidently one of those whose watchword is the old maxim, "Speak truth and shame the devil!"—

For I feel myself constrained, by a sacred regard to truth, to make the broad assertion, that Scotland at the present moment is, in no sense of the word, a learned country; specially, that in our Universities learning is at the lowest possible ebb, and is, in many branches, systematically discouraged, while in others it is altogether ignored; and if at any past period of our history we were entitled to take rank with the most learned nations of Europe, it is only so much the more sad that we stand in that rank conceded no longer now. We have notable names in science,—Brewster, Lyell, Miller, Forbes, Fleming, Wilson; we have notable names in literature,—Wilson, Lockhart, Walter Scott, though recently departed, are still with us, and sustain the literary character of Scotland in Europe, while Thomas Carlyle yet breathes; but in the rich fields of learning, strictly so called, our names are only sufficient to show what we might achieve, if circumstances were as favourable as they are adverse, and if patronage were as warm as it is cold. It is a very notable fact also, and very significant of the low state of learning in our Universities, which ought to be its grand citadels, that the few men that have done something to support our national reputation for scholarship and research are not academical men at all, but either private gentlemen indulging their own erudite humour, or gentlemen connected with the profession of the law, who could scarcely have avoided making a certain display of historic and antiquarian research, though of a purely local type, even supposing there were no Universities in the country. The names of Colonel Mure of Caldwell, Dr. Adams of Banochory Ternan, Dr. Daniel Wilson, now in Canada, George Finlay, Esq., residing in Athens, Thomas Thomson, lately deceased, James Reddie, George Brodie, and John Hill Burton, will suffice to show on what basis of notorious facts the above statement is made. These are names to be proud of; names, some of them known not in Scotland only and in England, but as far as European science sends its voice; but if you inquire at Berlin on the banks of the Spree, or at Munich on the banks of the Isar, or at Bonn on the Rhine, for any famous names of Scottish professors who have taken a distinguished part in the advancement of those branches of academical learning which form the just pride and boast of Continental Universities, I am afraid you will receive for answer, either no voice at all, or a voice of very small and thin commendation—the damnation of faint praise. The fact is, that our reputation for learning has so completely sunk, that even an occasional exceptional great name, such as that of Sir William Hamilton, I did not find, in a recent tour in Germany from which I am just returned, to be so generally known among that very learned people, as I had expected. No person in Germany ever thinks of looking to a Scottish University for any work of profound learning or original research. In every department where erudition must supply the materials on which philosophy is to speculate our academical reputation is altogether null. And yet there are persons in this remote corner of Europe, and I have spoken with not a few such, who live in such blissful ignorance, or narrow self-satisfaction, that they are, one and all, pleased that this should be even as it is, and will talk in large terms of the erudition of Scotch professors! Conceit is ever the darling child of ignorance; and perhaps it is well that it should be so; for the ignorant, if it might be revealed to them, could not tolerate the sight of their own stupidity, wherefore Heaven sends them a gracious delusion!—

"Ach! wie beseligt uns Menschen ein glücklicher Wahn!"

Perhaps some one will say, I am here dealing in general assertions and exaggerated statements. Would to God any one might stand up and correct me of error in that I have spoken! But I know too well what I am talking of; and have been forced by too painful a constraint to trumpet abroad my country's academical nakedness, because I am well aware that by the eternal laws of God, which no man can disregard with impunity, a free confession of past shortcomings is the only way to make a single step towards future improvement. Proceeding on this principle, I have at no time, since I had the honour to serve as an office-bearer in a Scotch University, made any attempt to conceal or to varnish over with air phrases the radical defects of these institutions, which, as I shall presently show, have been one great cause of the low state of learning to which we are at present reduced. I have, on the contrary, plainly and publicly proclaimed our academical defects, with a view to rouse the sense of national indignation in the better educated and more influential members of society,—and I repeat that proclamation now, careless of the offence that some persons may take, who have a stomach for everything but truth. If certain persons are offended, so much the better; it is a sign that the knife cuts. No great good was ever done, or attempted to be done, in the world without offending men—and there are always plenty such to be found—of small capacity, enormous conceit, and infinite aversion to move. But let us exhibit the matter in a tabular form, and bring the potent shapes that rule the imagination as much as may be under the domination of the fingers. The branches of learning, strictly so called, cultivated in the best European Universities at present may be catalogued under the following heads:—1. Civil History. 2. Church History, and the History of Theological Opinion. 3. The History of Philosophy. 4. The History of Science, and the special History of the Sciences. 5. The History of the Fine Arts. 6. The History of Poetry and of General Literature. 7. The special History of Latin, Greek, German, Sanscrit, Arabic, Icelandic, and other noted literatures, ancient and modern. 8. The History of Language; Philology, special and comparative; Ethnography. 9. The Exposition and Interpretation of Ancient Documents; Palæography; Criticism; Philology in the narrower sense. 10. The History of Ancient Monuments; Archeology; Numismatics; Greek Vases.

Now, I ask any honest man who has any superficial knowledge of the standard works which have appeared in Europe during the last fifty years, on the different branches of learning here enumerated—how many of these works have been the production of Scotsmen?

Then for the remedy:—

So much for the lack of encouragement to high learning in this country, and on the urgent necessity of opening to our young men of enterprise and ambition a larger arena of intellectual gladiatorialship in the Universities. Here also, before proceeding to what yet remains of my subject, I may set before you shortly that large amount of public sympathy and authority under protection of which I have made the strong statements in the immediately preceding pages. You have no doubt heard, and, through the medium of the public prints, seen, the prospectus of an association of gentlemen recently formed for the Extension of the Scottish Universities. Among the members of this association I observe the names of the Right Honourable Thomas Babington Macaulay, Sir David Brewster, John Inglis, Esq., Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, Leonard Horner, Esq., John Hunter, Esq., Craigcrook, Auditor of the Court of Session, John Thompson Gordon, Esq., Sheriff of Mid-Lothian, Professor Fleming, New College, and other persons well known in the city of Edinburgh, for their warm sympathy with every scheme that tends to the intellectual and moral advancement of the Scottish people. Now, in the prospectus circulated by this association, I find the following passage:—

"That in Scotland, while the public wealth has greatly increased since the date of the establishment of its Universities, no corresponding addition has been made to their endowments; but, on the contrary, these are, in many instances, relatively much less than at a former period.

"That, sooner or later, evil consequences to society, of a very serious nature, must result from the neglect of our Universities. The permanent interests even of popular education can be secured only by attending to those of the higher instruction, upon which general civilisation (of which popular education is a consequence) is dependent, not only for its progress but for its stability."

And this other:—

"That there are important branches of study which have attracted the public attention through courses of popular lectures, and otherwise, but for which no provision has yet been made in the Universities of Scotland; and there are other subjects of the highest importance which, from their nature,

* A Letter to the Right Hon. the Lord Provost and Town Council of Edinburgh, Patrons of the University. By John Stuart Blackie, Professor of Greek.

can neither be popular nor remunerative, and for the prosecution of which there is not sufficient encouragement afforded by any of the learned professions or otherwise in Scotland.

"For these among other reasons, the endowment of additional Chairs in the Scottish Universities is imperatively called for."

And again:—

"The following are the subjects which the association would in the meantime suggest as possessing such importance to the community as to merit that they should be properly represented in the Universities of Scotland:—1. Constitutional Law and History. 2. Political Economy. 3. International Law and Diplomacy. 4. English Language and Literature. 5. History of Philosophy, Ancient and Modern. 6. Metaphysics, apart from Logic and Ethics. 7. Modern Continental Literature—Teutonic. 8. Modern Continental Literature—Romanic. 9. Comparative Philology and the Science of Races. 10. History of Art."

In these three sentences you have a distinct proof that the statements just made by me, with a warmth which you will readily excuse in a person holding my position, and feeling as I do strongly on all that affects the reputation of our Universities, are guaranteed by that most respectable company of cool men of business, and clear-headed lawyers, whose names stand prominent in the committee of the association.

THE PROPOSED ANGLO-GALLIC SUBMARINE RAILWAY.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

To the communications arising out of my paper on the above subject, in your impression of Nov. 10th, I beg to offer the following replies:—

I propose branches from the South-Eastern and Calais and Paris Railways to extend on the piers from the English and French shores, be these on the suspension or on the pile principle; thus the space between the land and submarine railways would be measured by the tidal gangways connecting them. These would be jointed to the piers, similarly to those at some of the bridges on the Thames, by which passengers reach the river steamers.

The platforms surrounding the stair and ventilation shafts of the submarine railway are meant to be of a height commensurate to the difference of the tides.

The rise of the arc of twenty miles I calculate to be 66½ feet, taking the mean diameter of the earth at 7916 miles.

The exterior diameter of the tunnel is taken at 21 ft. 6 in.; but, as that was not meant to receive the brick lining, it should be, say 18 in. more.

The circle is composed of seventy staves.

In abridging my paper I inadvertently left out reference to the admission of the water into the pontoons, simultaneously with the withdrawal of the air, at the submergence of the tunnel.

Mr. De la Haye states that his proposal was first published in the *Jersey Gazette*, in April, 1844. It was subsequent to 1838 (mentioned by me), and to the publication of Mr. De la Haye's scheme, that Mr. Rettie stated he had in the latter year first suggested submarine railways.

I find I had missed in my enumeration the project of Mr. John Nicol, of Gilesgate, Durham, published in the *Durham Chronicle and Mining Journal*, in January, 1851; this, I am informed, is the one referred to in the *Builder* of July 21, 1855, which, in consequence of their identity, I supposed to be Mr. Favre's. The correspondence of the latter gentleman's subterranean scheme, published recently, with that of Mr. Nicol, published in 1851, is remarkable—their chief difference being comprised in the shafts down through the sea superadded by Mr. Favre.

The communication of Mr. D. G. Hope, C.E., of Manchester, directs attention to a letter by him in the *Liverpool Mercury*, which commences with a reference to my paper in your journal; and proceeds to state that I admit that the tube I propose "must have a vertical motion, similar to that experienced in a ship at sea." Mr. Hope has misapprehended my meaning; for I neither admitted nor do I suppose such a motion: the motion, if any, would be such as might be exemplified in a model of the proposed tunnel suspended from a ceiling, by chains attached to its sides, and having considerable spread upwards. Here the position and forces are simply inverted; the tube constantly pulls contrary to its ties, and is, therefore, vertically, steadfast: motion is also checked laterally by the spread of the chains, and longitudinally by their shortness as compared with the distance from shore to shore. Therefore, while I would not vouch for perfect immobility, my belief is that the motion would be lateral or longitudinal, and next to nil. Mr. Hope proposes a bridge; but I confess I have not been able to master his project, which he probably had not time to state clearly.

A correspondent at Inverary, Argyshire, assumes that my tube would be disposed to vertical and lateral movement, and liable to all the evils attendant upon extreme torsion; also, that it would be flexible, and yield to the weight of the train within it, so as to involve the latter in perpetual movement up an incline. These suppositions, as in other cases, serve to usher in a conception of his own, namely—a submarine causeway of stone, raised to about 50 ft. below the surface, whereon the tube should be constructed. If this and other correspondents had gone through the curriculum of calculation that I did, they would have found out, not the levity of the tube, but the gravity of the water, which is only impressible by matter much weightier even than a train, and is hardly to be persuaded to admit the tube below the surface at all. This they all overlook, notwithstanding the data I have given. As regards the submarine embankment, it appears to me that a Schehallion at Calais, and Ben Cruachan on the Scottish shore, would be necessary to its effectuation.

The editor of the *Glasgow Citizen*, who has favoured my project with a particular notice, suggests a levithian ferry-boat, propelled by any number of engines, and moving from shore to shore like an accommodating island, as being a more satisfactory mode of drying up the channel; to which, I say—and not a bad notion either; although I fear there will be a difficulty in finding captains big enough to surveil and command these monster vessels.

In am gratified by the opinion of a practical engineer regarding the practicability of the plan. I think it likely enough that the ironwork might be done for £16 per ton; but I chose to take a full figure. The estimate being detailed, the prices can be revised by any party.

The political view of the subject had suggested itself to me; but I did not think it involved a barrier.

M. Horeau states that his object was to avoid an accumulated impetus; and he proposes to secure its avoidance by means of several inclines. He suggests that experiments should be made in a river or arm of the sea; and that a congress of competent men should be formed, by whom various systems would be examined, and a rational scheme evolved. Both suggestions I quite subscribe to; and I had myself thought that an association of the authors of the most approved projects might be advantageous.

Erratum.—2nd column, 18th line from bottom, omit "interiorly."

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

31, Church-road, Beauvoir-square.

JAMES WYLLSON, C.E.

MR. H. FENWICK, M.P., ON THE WAR.—At a meeting relative to the burdens on shipping, held in Sunderland last week, Mr. H. Fenwick, M.P., in the course of some remarks, said:—There is no doubt whatever that war does tend to throw back the tide of improvement; but we are engaged in a war hallowed, if ever war was hallowed, by the holiest motives and the purest objects that ever actuated nations (loud applause); a war not begun for purposes of national aggrandisement—not for purposes of military or naval fame—but for the purpose of relieving the distressed, of succouring the weak, and offering a barrier to that aggressive despot who rules in the North, and wishes to ride over the whole of civilised Europe. I know that the discussion upon this subject will probably somewhat retard the extension of civilisation and of improvement in this country; but I little know the public spirit and feelings of the people of this town if they are not content to undergo any sacrifices, rather than give up this war till they have accomplished the object for which it was commenced (loud applause). There is no doubt whatever that the people of this country will carry on the war with vigour and energy at all sacrifice, at all hazard, and at all cost, rather than give it up, till a peace which is likely to be lasting, and I hope perpetual, shall be attained (loud applause). But a mere convention for the purpose of affording breathing time for the renewal of the fight we must never have. When the day of peace does come, and I hope it will speedily, let there be a peace which, while it is honourable to us, is sure to be lasting; which will show to the earth that the nations of modern Europe have not commenced this war without counting the cost, and without being sure of the result (loud applause).

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER.—Advices from Java, by the Overland Mail of the 10th of October, mention that, owing to the continuance of drought, great apprehensions were entertained for the growing crops of rice, sugar, &c. The *Java Bode* states that at Indramaya the evil had reached such a height in that district that wild animals (monkeys, musk-rats, &c.) had ventured into the houses to seek for water, and allowed themselves to be taken by the hand. It is added that the inhabitants of Indramaya, in the short period of eight months, had killed and exhibited to the authorities 60 tigers, 9000 wild hogs, 13 alligators, 2000 squirrels, 100 bats of the largest kind, 67,000 rats, and 5400 musk-rats.

A VERY WILD CANARD.—In Vienna the editors of newspapers have been forbidden by the police to insert their own combinations and conceptions under the head of "telegraphic despatches," as though they had received them by wire from somewhere; perhaps an exposure or two in your columns may have the same effect in London. The copying of telegraphic despatches published by contemporaries is also a practice accompanied at times with inconvenient results. The *Tagblatt*, of Berne, was in the habit of doing so, and so the editors of the *Berner Zeitung* took the liberty, at the time that the Emperor of Russia was in the Crimea, of printing in the one copy of their paper which was to be supplied to the *Tagblatt* the following startling telegraphic intelligence:—"The Emperor of Russia and Prince Gortschakoff have been taken prisoners by the Allies;" all which was religiously copied into the whole impression of the *Berne Tagblatt*, to the great satisfaction and amusement of its readers.—Letter from Berlin.

THE LATE ADMIRAL BRUAT.

THIS able and distinguished Admiral passed nearly his whole life in the naval service of his country. He was educated at the Ecole de Brest, and was an aspirant of the first class in 1815, an Ensign in 1819, a Lieutenant in 1827, and commanded a frigate in 1831. He obtained the rank of Vice-Admiral in 1852, and became an Admiral of France in 1855. He was known in the French Navy as a brave, indefatigable, and generous officer. He was early in life engaged on the African coast, where he was wrecked and taken as a prisoner of war to Algiers. On his return to France he commanded the *Jena* and the *Triton*, first-class ships. Afterwards he was Governor of the French colonies in Oceania, and subsequent to that he occupied important naval posts under the Government of General Cavaignac. The present war brought Bruat prominently before the public: he was named second to Admiral Hamelin in command of the French fleet, and he was present at the bombardment of Sebastopol, October 17. When Admiral Hamelin returned, Bruat was placed at the head of the Allied squadrons. He had just left Constantinople, after a grand reception from the Sultan, amid the congratulations of the Ambassadors of the Allies, when an attack of gout in the stomach proved fatal to him. The gallant Admiral died on board, while his fleet was leaving the roadstead of Messina.

METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT BILL.

THE annexed Engraving represents the first election of vestrymen under Sir Benjamin's Hall's Act. If a churchwarden does not preside at the election he may appoint a substitute, by giving notice three clear days before the election, and notifying the appointment to the vestry-clerk of the parish. The rate-collectors, or persons appointed by them, are required to attend the churchwardens and persons presiding at elections, and also inspectors of votes, to assist in ascertaining that the persons presenting themselves to vote are parishioners rated to the relief of the poor in the parish, or the respective wards thereof, and duly qualified to vote at the election. At the election the parishioners rated to the relief of the poor are empowered to nominate two ratepayers of the parish—or, if the parish be divided into wards, of the ward for which the election is held; after this nomination has taken place, the president is authorised to nominate two other ratepayers to act as inspectors. The next step is for the parishioners to choose vestrymen and auditors; but none can vote, although resident in the parish, unless they have been rated for one year next before the election, and have paid all parochial rates, taxes, and assessments due at the time of voting, except such as have been made or become due within six months immediately preceding. There is one clause which deserves especial notice—it is that



THE LATE ADMIRAL BRUAT.

which refers to the ballot, which we quote at length:—

Provided always, that any five ratepayers may then and there, in writing or otherwise, demand a poll, which shall be taken by ballot on the day next following, and shall commence at eight of the clock in the forenoon, and close at such hour as hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, at six of the clock in the afternoon in the case of any election to be holden in October, 1855, and at eight of the clock in the afternoon in all other cases; each ratepayer depositing, as hereinafter provided, two folded papers, one of which papers shall contain the names of the persons for whom such parishioner may vote as fit and proper to be members of the vestry, and the other shall contain the names or name of the persons or person for whom such parishioner may vote as fit and proper to be auditors or auditor of accounts.

The next provision is, that the folded papers are to be deposited into two separate sets of balloting glasses or boxes, one set for voting-papers for members of the vestry, and another for voting-papers for auditors. At the end of the poll these glasses or boxes are to be closed, and the inspectors are allowed two days to examine them, and their decision is final: in case of an equality of votes for any two or more persons, either as vestrymen or auditors, the inspectors are to select the party they deem most worthy. Any person forging or falsifying any voting-paper is liable to a penalty of not less than ten pounds, nor more than fifty pounds; and, in default of payment, to be imprisoned for not more than six months nor less than three months. When the election is over the inspectors are to deliver a list of the persons chosen as vestrymen and auditors to the churchwardens. The expenses incurred in providing a place for taking the votes, publishing notices, and taking the poll, are to be paid out of the poor-rates of the parish, by order of the vestry. Where the whole vestry consists of eighteen members five are to constitute a quorum; if of twenty-four, seven; if of thirty-six and upwards, nine; and all questions are to be decided by the votes of the majority. Clause xxxi. is important:—"At every meeting of any vestry under this Act, in the absence of the parties authorised by law or custom to take the chair, the members present shall elect a chairman for the occasion before proceeding to other business; and the chairman, in case of an equality of votes on any question, shall have a second or casting vote."

The recognition of the principle of the ballot in these elections is important, and it is to be hoped that a Liberal Government will no longer withhold the extension of the same principle to Parliamentary elections. If it is deemed right by both Houses of the Legislature to protect the ratepayers against intimidation in a comparatively minor an affair as the choice of vestrymen, it is sheer hypocrisy to pretend that it would be dangerous when applied in electing members for the House of Commons.



BALLOT FOR THE OFFICERS UNDER THE NEW METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT BILL.